

## Residents Win Weekend Bus Service on Route 93

By Barb Warwick

For years, residents of Hazelwood and Greenfield have been asking for better bus service. This past month, Port Authority announced weekend service for Route 93 beginning this November—a major step toward improving mobility for these neighborhoods. Starting at Johnston Ave. and Broadview Dr. in Glen Hazel, the 93 runs to and from the Lawrenceville Shopping Center. It covers Hazelwood, upper Greenfield, Squirrel Hill, Oakland, Bloomfield, and Lawrenceville.

Currently, the 93 runs only on weekdays, connecting residents to critical employment, food shopping, and healthcare destinations. It also provides access to sports and recreation in Schenley Park and to shopping, restaurants, and more along the entire route. Without the 93, weekend trips to these same destinations using public transit take three

times as long. “I’m a home care aid in Oakland,” says James Thomas of Greenfield. “But the bus doesn’t always run when I need it, so I end up having to catch an Uber a lot of the time. Having the 93 run on Saturday and Sunday is going to be a big help.”

Allison Burd, a massage therapist, yoga instructor, grad student, and

single mom living in Hazelwood, is also looking forward to the extended service. “My teenage son wants to meet up with his friends in Squirrel Hill to study at the library, play basketball at the JCC, or grab lunch or a Starbucks,” she says. “But on the weekends, it’s impossible to get there. If I’m working, I can’t give him a ride. Having a bus is going to

make life a lot easier.”

The benefits of the new weekend service are, indeed, most obvious when looking at what is accessible via transit from Hazelwood. In addition to providing access to several amenity-rich areas, the 93 route passes three different Giant Eagle grocery stores, addressing a major food desert issue for the neighborhood. In early July, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that Port Authority has budget approval to add weekend service on 10 routes. Philip St. Pierre, the Authority’s director of service planning and scheduling, is quoted as saying, “We have heard the need for this type of service through our community engagement and comments received through our service request process [and] have been able to develop plans based on that feedback.” That’s where resident voices and the fight against the

*Continued on Page Four*



This Hazelwood rider was happy to hear that the 93 bus will soon run on weekends.  
Photo: Alfred DiRosa

## Largest Solar Installation in Pittsburgh Will Soon be Complete, Powering Mill 19 at Hazelwood Green

By Sandra Tolliver

In another first for Mill 19 at Hazelwood Green, crews have placed the final solar panels on the largest single sloped solar array in the country — 4,784 silicon panels that will power the entire facility.

The \$5 million project is the largest solar installation in Pittsburgh and, unlike typical spot installations on flat roofs, the largest on a sloped surface in the U.S., says Mike Carnahan, vice president and general manager of Scalo Solar Solutions, a division of Burns Scalo in Thornburg.

His crews will spend the next few weeks connecting the installation to the grid and hope to flip the switch to make it operational by the end of July. It’s an apropos way to mark the company’s 10th anniversary, says Carnahan.

“My guys are about to take a

champagne bottle and break it off the side of the building,” he says.

Scalo will own the solar installation and claim the one-time, 30 percent federal tax credit on its installation cost. RIDC, which built Mill 19, will buy energy from it — paying Scalo Solar an estimated \$12,000 monthly to provide electricity for all

the tenants, says Carnahan.

“Their Duquesne Light bills will be next to nothing,” he says. “As far as the energy being generated, we’re going to be providing the vast majority of that.”

With solar panels tied to the grid instead of batteries, any energy produced and not used goes through

the electric meter back to the utility company, which credits the consumer dollar for dollar.

“Basically, you’re using the grid as storage,” says Carnahan. “Your meter on your house will spin backwards if you’re not there to use the electricity.”

In 2015, Scalo Solar began working with RIDC and Almono, the group of foundations that conceived of the Hazelwood Green development, to enable Mill 19 and other parts of the 178-acre site to be entirely sustainable. The power purchase agreement was a way to make the project affordable by utilizing tax credits that the nonprofit organizations would not be able to take advantage of.

“We’ll provide 100 percent of the annual net power required for the buildings here in Mill 19,”

*Continued on Page Five*



Solar work in progress. Photo courtesy of Scalo Solar Solutions

# The Homepage

Serving the communities of  
Greenfield · Hazelwood · Lincoln Place · Hays · New Homestead

*The Homepage is published by the Hazelwood Initiative, Inc., a community based non-profit, and is made possible thanks to advertising revenue from local business and organizations.*

## Editor

Alyse Richmond

## Layout

Alfred DiRosa

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The Homepage encourages all residents of Hazelwood, Greenfield, Glen Hazel, Glenwood, Hays, New Homestead, and Lincoln Place, along with those who have an interest in these communities, to use this paper as a platform to promote resources, events, services, and community initiatives to further connect and strengthen their neighborhoods.

The Homepage reserves the right to decide what content is appropriate for publication and may edit submissions for length or form. The opinions expressed, whether by paid advertisement or editorial content, do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper, the Hazelwood Initiative, Inc., the Greenfield Community Association, nor the 31st Ward Community Action Group.

Email your letters to:  
adirosa@hazelwoodinitiative.org



## Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Hazelwood Initiative, as a community based development corporation, is to build a stronger Hazelwood through inclusive community development.

# Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel: Where God Meets Your Needs

By Vicar Silas Hasselbrook

Whether you live in Pittsburgh (where I was born and now live in Hazelwood), or grew up in Montana (like me); whether you live in Texas, or live in Wisconsin (also places I have lived, the last of which is where I met my wife, Moira), there are needs that all humans have. Food and clothing are pretty immediate needs. Fortunately, Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel is equipped to answer these needs. Our food and clothing center, located in the basement, is overflowing with clothes and food. Currently, food and clothing are available to all who come and ask, and the distribution center is open most days of the week, whenever the downstairs doors are open. Also, new food is set outside under the two tents and is free to take. Every other Saturday is specifically set aside for distributing bags of food and setting clothes outside to be taken. If you are in need, you will find caring and welcoming people at Holy Cross who serve with the joy of Christ.



Jobs and housing are also needs that all humans have. Holy Cross can also help with this. If you are in need of a job, Holy Cross can direct you to various job offers due to its collaboration with Hazelwood Initiative, and a memorandum of understanding with Davis Consulting, located in the Spartan Center. Further, if you are in need of housing, Holy Cross can direct you to resources put out by the Hazelwood Initiative. These needs of clothing, food, housing, and jobs fall under what is called the 1st Article of the Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. He provides all these things for all people, Christian or not. He made heaven and earth, and still takes care of it and those who live in it. He is a gracious and merciful God.

Yet, there are other needs that all humans have that cannot be seen by the eye. We have the need to belong. Holy Cross is a place where you are welcome to join our family of volunteers and Christians. Humans have a need to be loved. Talk with the people at Holy Cross and it will be evident that their lives are ones of love toward each other and all those they serve in Hazelwood. But that is not all. People everywhere, from all places and times, have a



Vicar Silas and Moira Hasselbrook

need for forgiveness. We live in an imperfect world, and are imperfect people, who have made less than perfect choices. We might have been born into a difficult life or situation, or arrived there ourselves. For some, their faults weigh them down like a piano on their back, and force their eyes down to the ground in despair, not up toward the future in hope. For some, their faults may create a vacuum in their heart, where they become numb to real joy, and find nothing wholesome or happy in day-to-day life. For some, their faults are too painful to think about, so the pain is covered up in addictions or distractions. The guilt of past mistakes can be overwhelming, and there oftentimes may not seem as if there is hope of any real peace and comfort in this imperfect life.



Sanctuary at Holy Cross

Holy Cross has a message for imperfect people in an imperfect world: there is hope and there is forgiveness. The same God who gives us clothing and food and home, He has provided for our need to be forgiven. He sent His dearly loved and precious Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross, so that your faults would not cause you to despair, would not separate you from Him. Jesus died because God wants you to know there is forgiveness for any mistakes you have made,

*Continued on Page Seven*

# COVID-19: Greater Hazelwood Food Distribution

Center of Life	Delivering prepared meals Monday – Friday from 11am – 1pm 412-521-3468
Community Delivery Hotline	Grocery delivery 412-568-3579
Fishes and Loaves	Prepared meals available for pick-up Monday - Friday from 11:30am – 1pm Meals-on-Wheels also available for meal deliveries 131 E Elizabeth – St. Stephens Pastoral Center 412-499-4313
Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran	Fresh and non-perishable food offered for free everyday 412-521-0844 / 5319 Second Ave (Opens 9:30am)
POORLAW	For Glen Hazel residents - poorlaw@gmail.com 412-670-8421 or 412-478-8299
Praise Temple Deliverance Church	For Glenwood residents 5400 Glenwood Ave 412-277-0113

## Hotlines, Alerts, & General Information

**Allegheny County Health Dept.**  
24/7 hotline:  
888-856-2774

**Center of Life**  
Covid-19 Online Resource Guide  
centeroflifeonline.net/covid

**Phone Alerts:**  
www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts

**Hazelwood Initiative Community Updates**  
facebook.com/hazelwoodinitiative

**General Information & Assistance:**  
Call 2-1-1  
OR text your zip code to 898-211  
OR visit PA211sw.org

**Praise Temple Community Hotline**  
\*Answering M-F, 10am-2pm  
Messages returned next day  
412-422-1983

## Houses of Worship

**Church of the Good Shepherd**  
124 Johnston Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-421-8497  
hazelwoodgoodshepherd@gmail.com  
www.hazelwoodgoodshepherd.org

**Mary S. Brown-Ames United Methodist Church**  
\*During construction of new building -  
**Temporarily meeting at:**  
515 West 8th Avenue  
Homestead, PA 15120  
412-421-4431  
info@brightredfence.org  
www.brightredfence.org

**Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel**  
5319 Second Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-521-0844  
www.holycrosspgh.info

**First Hungarian Reformed Church of Pittsburgh**  
221 Johnston Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-421-0279

**Praise Temple Deliverance Church**  
5400 Glenwood Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-277-0113

**St. Rosalia's Catholic Church**  
411 Greenfield Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-421-5766  
strosaliaparish@gmail.com  
www.strosaliaparish.org

**Holy Angels Parish**  
408 Baldwin Road  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-461-6906  
www.holyangelshays.org

**Squirrel Hill Christian Church**  
290 Bigelow Street  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-521-2447  
www.squirrelhillcc.wixsite.com

**St. Stephen Catholic Church**  
5115 Second Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-421-9210  
saintstephen@verizon.net  
www.ststephen-hazelwood.org

**Keystone Church of Hazelwood**  
161 Hazelwood Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15027  
412-521-3468

**St. John the Evangelist Baptist**  
4537 Chatsworth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-521-0994  
info@stjohnpgh.org  
www.stjohnpgh.org

**Warriors of Holiness in Power (W.H.I.P. Ministries)**  
1174 Mifflin Road  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-461-5572  
whipwarriors@gmail.com  
www.whipministries.org

## Correction:

Article: PWSA Delays Stormwater Project, Declines Request to Model Improvements Without Shuttle Roadway (July 2020)

By Junction Coalition

Last month's article stated: "Five of PWSA's six current board members were nominated by Mayor Peduto."

Will Pickering, Executive Director of PWSA:

*"As a point of clarification, Ms. Lanier's initial term on the PWSA Board was prior to Mayor Peduto's term(s) as Mayor, but all appointments to the PWSA board are nominated by the Mayor and approved by Council. Ms. Lanier's most recent nomination was indeed put forward by Mayor Peduto."*

This means all six board members were nominated by Mayor Peduto.

## "Just For Today" Nar-Anon Family Group Meeting



**Wednesdays at 6:30 PM**  
**First Hungarian Reformed Church – Calvin Hall**  
**221 Johnston Avenue**  
**Contact Cindy at 412 421 7076**

If you have a loved one, family member or friend that suffers from the disease of addiction, these meetings are for you.

# Route 93 Weekend Service - Continued from Front Page

Mon-Oakland Connector (MOC) come in.

Since 2015, residents have been pushing hard against the MOC, a Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) plan that will use public money to build a road for shuttles between Carnegie Mellon University and the Hazelwood Green development. The shuttle road would replace the existing vehicle-free bike path through the southwest corner of Schenley Park and run directly next to the local soccer field. Tied to a PWSA project to mitigate severe flooding in the Four Mile Run section of Greenfield, residents there feel like the City is forcing the shuttles onto them in exchange for getting the flooding fixed. Justin Macey, whose two young daughters are fourth-generation Run residents, says, "These floods are dangerous. My wife and I feel panicked every time there's a heavy rain. But the city won't do anything about it unless we let them run shuttles along the bike path I take to work and the field where my kids play. It's just not fair."

Despite claims from DOMI that these shuttles would improve mobility between Hazelwood and Oakland, Hazelwood residents are also unconvinced. "We need better bus service now," says Teaira Collins, a local Hazelwood activist and mother of five. "I can't understand why the city wants to spend all this money to build a new road for shuttles when we could just expand existing bus service for a fraction of the cost."

Over the past five years, residents of Greenfield, Hazelwood, Oakland, Squirrel Hill, and elsewhere have been working together to put a stop to the MOC. Then, in December of 2019, they came together with the help of Pittsburghers for Public Transit (PPT) to create a community-driven alternative plan to the MOC called Our Money, Our Solutions, a key component which calls for extending the 75 from the Southside over Hot Metal Bridge into Hazelwood and adding weekend service for the 93.

"Our Money, Our Solutions solidifies the recommendations identified by the Greater Hazelwood Com-

prehensive Neighborhood Plan and draws on community feedback and data acquired through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, DOMI, and 311 requests," explains Laura Wiens, executive director of PPT. "It's about driving the future of our neighborhoods from within and finding effective, sustainable transit solutions that meet people's needs today."

Now, with more than 1,000 individuals and more than 20 community organizations signed on,

and after nearly nine months of petitioning Port Authority, that weekend service is soon to be a reality. "It isn't just about Hazelwood and Greenfield. This is going to mean weekend service for people across the city who need to get to work, buy groceries, visit family, get to the hospital—whatever," says Collins. "We worked hard for this. It's really amazing what gets done when communities come together."



## COVID-19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAZELWOOD & GLEN HAZEL

# HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE NIF C-19 GUIDELINES

- Up to \$1000 Housing Assistance
- Up to \$300 Utility Assistance
- Up to \$200 Basic Needs



### KEY FACTS

- Only for residents of Greater Hazelwood
- **Choose 1 grant type**
- You can apply for another in 2 months
- Include a copy of the bill(s) you need paid
- Return application by mail, email, or call for an appointment



### APPLICATION PICK-UP LOCATIONS

- ✓ Hazelwood Initiative
- ✓ C&D's Kitchen
- ✓ Monae's Hair Studio
- ✓ Family Health Center
- ✓ Elizabeth Pharmacy
- ✓ Dylamato's Market

Hazelwood Initiative, 4901 Second Ave., 2nd floor (412) 392-7427 | ttaultonhazelwoodinitiative.org

# FISHES & LOAVES congregates LUNCH

At St. Stephen's Pastoral Center  
131 E Elizabeth St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207

now open for take out meals!

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
11:30 AM TO 1 PM  
Free and open to the public

# Fishes and Loaves Bids Farewell to a Vital AmeriCorps VISTA

By Deacon Tom Berna

Bridget Fertal came to Pittsburgh in July 2019 to serve as the first AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) for Fishes and Loaves Cooperative Ministries (FLCM). Her assignment included “Capacity Building” which meant that she would help streamline operations and help Fishes and Loaves to achieve its mission of bringing healthy food to our neighbors in the greater Hazelwood Community. She started by serving alongside other volunteers: preparing food and delivering it to our Meals on Wheels clients, helping with the Free Lunch program, and helping to deliver emergency food. Almost immediately, Bridget demonstrated her ability to help Fishes and Loaves build capacity. She designed a logo and developed a color-scheme and branding for FLCM communications. She updated the website and Facebook page and began sending out useful information over these social media platforms. I once said to Bridget, “It’s good that you are so motivated and self-directed, because

I do not spend a lot of time in the office.”

Bridget attended the national Meals on Wheels convention in August 2019 and maintained contacts with people and vendors from similar Meals on Wheels programs. Of her own initiative, she identified multiple grant opportunities and secured funding for FLCM. Board Member Matthew Bolton put it well, “Bridget was an amazing addition to Fishes and Loaves Cooperative Ministries and her legacy has placed FLCM in a stronger position to fulfill its mission.”

It is one thing to have the skills to complete a task, but it is quite another to foster relationships and work with people of diverse backgrounds. Again, Bridget is a shining example of how to work with others—clients and co-workers alike. Hazelwood Initiative’s Alfred DiRosa noted, “Bridget’s involvement in the neighborhood was definitely felt even beyond FLCM.” Bolton adds, “Bridget’s compassion and energy led her exemplary service in the Hazelwood community creating many opportunities for expanding service,



community outreach and assisting FLCM reach more people.” Board Treasurer April Clisura cites Bridget’s work with volunteers, “Bridget put us in a much better position to accomplish what are called “the 3 R’s” (recruit, reward, retain) within our program by creating handouts and manuals for new volunteers and

keeping volunteers engaged.” Bridget has certainly been a blessing to Fishes and Loaves and to the greater Hazelwood Community. We wish her every success as she pursues graduate studies in poetry and writing at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.

## Solar Power at Mill 19 - Continued from Front Page

Carnahan says. “We might underproduce in winter, because of snow and lack of sunlight, but we’ll overproduce in summertime to be net zero. ... Nighttime, they’ll be using the grid; daytime, they’ll use solar.”

Here’s how it works: The panels are made of solar-grade silicon that sits under glass. When sun hits the panels, electrons bounce around and knock other electrons loose, then wires collect the power and feed it down to the building.

“As long as the sun’s out, even in the mornings with early sun, we can produce power. It’s based on light — they’re photons,” Carnahan says. “In the middle of the day, a nice sunny day, we’re producing lots and lots of energy.”

The 90,000-square-foot Mill 19 sits within the frame of the former Jones & Laughlin Steel Company mill. Carnegie Mellon University’s Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) and Manufacturing Futures Initiative occupy the first two floors. Catalyst Connection is on the third floor, and O’Hara-based self-driving car company Aptiv is another tenant.

Scalo Solar’s crews are also installing panels to power Hazelwood Green’s parking lots, pedestrian plaza, parklet and water features. The panels will be installed atop custom canopies by September. Since the parking lots’ lights and gates won’t use much power, some of the energy will power the fountains in the park.

“The idea is to have 10 times more solar down here eventually — every building, every parking lot, so that everybody will be using renewable energy,” Carnahan says.

Scalo Solar has done other big projects in the Pittsburgh region and Ohio, including Giant Eagle Market District and GetGo stores, Chatham University’s Eden Hall campus, Carnegie Science Center’s new addition, and a microgrid project at Phipps Conservatory’s exhibit staging center. The company is currently installing 700 some panels on a Lane Steel building in McKees Rocks.

“We see the industry just growing and growing. It’s not going away — it’s the fastest-growing industry in energy,” says Carnahan.

*This article was originally published by nextpittsburgh.com on June 29, 2020*

**HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE INC.**

### Affordable Rental Housing in Hazelwood!

Must have a Section 8 voucher.  
Income guidelines apply (varies by unit).

2-bedroom apartment over 61Z Coffee Shop  
Call Blair Kossis: (412) 592-1605



1-bedroom or 2-bedroom (210 Flowers)  
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Call Dave Cunningham: (412) 583-3163 (call or text)

Get on our waiting list as other units become available!  
Call Dave Brewton: (412) 295-4787

# 31<sup>ST</sup> WARD WIRE

Lincoln Place • Gates Manor  
Hays • New Homestead



## Our Mission:

The 31<sup>st</sup> Ward Community Action Group was established to bring the residents of our community together, advocate for the neighborhoods' needs, and to support the youth, veterans, and senior citizens of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ward and surrounding areas.

## 31<sup>st</sup> Ward Churches



**Holy Angels Parish**  
408 Baldwin Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-461-6906  
[www.holyangelsghays.org](http://www.holyangelsghays.org)

**Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene**  
5604 Interboro Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-462-2524  
[www.ipnaz.org](http://www.ipnaz.org)

**Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church**  
1202 Muldowney Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-461-3377

**Mt. Rise Baptist Church**  
80 Ingot Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15120  
412-462-8333

**Maoz Tzur - Rock of Ages Messianic Jewish Congregation at Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene**  
5604 Interboro Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-609-1117

**St. John the Baptist Byzantine Cathedral**  
210 Greentree Road  
Munhall, PA 15120  
412-461-0944

**Warriors of Holiness in Power (W.H.I.P. Ministries)**  
1174 Mifflin Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-461-5571

## 31<sup>st</sup> Ward CAG Corner

Join us for community planning and events, discussion of current concerns and goals, as well as updates from Zone 4 Police, the Office of Councilman O'Connor, and the Mayor's Office

Lincoln Presbyterian Church,  
1202 Muldowney Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

\*Monthly meetings every 2nd Tuesday at 7 PM  
Social Hall of LP Presbyterian Church.  
Enter on Cooley Way

### Contact us:

Email: [executiveboard@31WardCag.org](mailto:executiveboard@31WardCag.org) Website: [31stwardcag.org](http://31stwardcag.org) Find us on Facebook!



## 31<sup>st</sup> Ward Flag Fund

Your donation will help our volunteers to install and maintain American flags that line the streets of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ward.

Please make checks payable to the **31<sup>st</sup> Ward Community Action Group** and mail to 944 Sunflow St, Munhall, PA 15120. Include a return mailing address if you would like a receipt of your donation.

Send a donation via Venmo to @Pgh31stWardCAG  
[www.venmo.com/Pgh31stWardCAG](http://www.venmo.com/Pgh31stWardCAG)

## Support Community Life in Lincoln Place - Donate to Help Replace Our Roof

Lincoln Place Presbyterian is more than just a church. It is the center of many different community activities and uses. It plays host to:

- Neighborhood and Holiday meals & gatherings
- Senior functions
- Youth activities
- Political engagements & voting
- The meeting place of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ward Community Action Group



Since the health crisis interrupted our usual fundraising events, we are reaching out to our neighbors for any amount they are comfortable donating during this difficult time.

Donations can be mailed to:  
1202 Muldowney Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

## Holy Angels Parish

Tuesday - 8:00 AM  
Thursday - 8:00 AM  
Friday - 8:00 AM  
Saturday - 8:00 AM  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00 AM  
Sunday - 9:30 AM  
Confession: Saturdays after 8am 'til 9am

## Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Service - 9:30 AM  
Monday - NAs 7:00 PM  
Tuesday - Senior Lunch & more 12:00-2:00 PM  
For more info call: 412-461-3377

## Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene

Sunday School (all ages) - 9:30 AM  
Children's Church - 10:30 AM  
Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Evening Service - 6:30 PM

Monthly food pantry - 3rd Saturday (8:30 AM)  
at Lincoln Place Presbyterian

Need a ride to church?  
Call Darrel at 412-461-6742

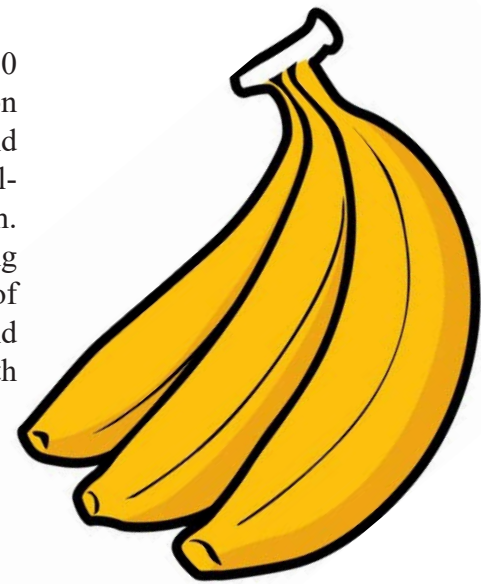
## Holy Cross - Continued from Page Two

and that your faults are not a reason for you to live empty and hopeless lives. God has a wonderful purpose for your life, as His forgiven child. Life is certainly imperfect. But the life God offers gives you meaning as you live as an imperfect person in an imperfect world. No matter how big or serious you think your mistakes are, God's love and forgiveness are much bigger and more serious. His forgiveness gives you a clean slate every day, every hour, every time you make a mistake. Do not go through life without knowing God's love for you. Fortunately, you don't have to—Holy Cross exists for this very thing.

The food and clothing distribution center is a reflection of our worship. We give freely and generously, because we know that God has given us peace of mind and purpose in life through the free and generous forgiveness of Christ's Holy Cross. We seek to help all people, because God sent Jesus to rescue all people, including us. Come to worship with us, where you will hear the life-giving message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

We have a Sunday morning service at 9:30 followed by Bible Study, Wednesday Prayer services at noon followed by Bible study, and Friday Stations of the Cross at noon. Ad-

ditionally, we have Matins at 9:30 Tuesday-Saturday, and at 8:30 on Sunday. You can always stop in and speak with me, Vicar Silas Hasselbrook, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday about anything you'd like. We are on the corner of 2nd Avenue and Mansion, 5319 2nd Avenue. God bless you this month of August.



## Hazelwood Launches Pittsburgh's Community Currency: ChangeMakers Complete Initial Project

By Michael B. Marks and Stacy Desai

Hazelwood is the first community to host Greater Pittsburgh's own digital complementary community currency. This yet-to-be-named community currency (CC), provides financial support to community members and local businesses who give back or pay it forward to assist communities in addressing chronic challenges. Community currencies contribute to economic independence and localism by encouraging trading between community members, businesses and their suppliers, strengthening ties between residents and local businesses. Currencies also help local communities weather external economic shocks such as what has occurred as a result of COVID-19. However, unlike most other currencies, this currency is designed to develop a new workforce for unemployed, underemployed, and those looking for a new direction in their careers.

Here is how it works: exchanges begin by honoring CCs earned by community "ChangeMakers." Communities plan projects such as helping isolated seniors, growing produce to provide families with healthy food, transporting individuals to essential appointments, or giving single parents respite care support. ChangeMakers agree to work on these projects in a variety of roles often serving for 5 or more hours per week and staying involved for many weeks. ChangeMakers earn a stipend of community currency, with

an hour of service valued at 15-time credits equivalent to \$15. ChangeMakers use these earned CCs at local businesses to meet basic individual or family needs, or can exchange the CC with other community members. Businesses choose to accept as many CCs as they would like from ChangeMakers and can then use the currency to purchase goods and services from other vendors, or pay their staff in whole or in part in CCs.

Hazelwood's focus is on using the currency to support ChangeMakers working to develop food sovereignty. The first ChangeMaker project just ended, with eight ChangeMakers having earned 5,760 CCs capturing food waste from local businesses and residents and turning the waste into compost at the Hilltop Urban Farm. Together, over 100 pounds of carbon were sequestered. "This is a dream come true for me," says Jim McCue, a ChangeMaker working in Hazelwood. "In this time of great change, we need to see that we are all one family. I get to work the soil and help the local economy as the larger economy may become unstable."

ChangeMakers benefit businesses as well. "The Hilltop farm does not have sufficient funding to support the kind of workforce that we were able to tap into by using the local currency," notes Anthony Stewart of DECO resources, a project collaborator. "ChangeMakers made a big difference," notes Stewart. "ChangeMakers want to keep serv-

ing to address food insecurity and to support other projects identified in the Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan," notes Dan Little, CEO of involveMINT ([www.involvemint.io](http://www.involvemint.io)), the organization that manages the currency and collaborates with community stakeholders to determine ways to use the currency to address priority needs.

Supporting Little's view that this is only the beginning, a new project is set to launch in August and this project has significant implications for Hazelwood. InvolveMINT just received permission to use space at 4501 Sylvan Avenue to house a community farm. Partnerships with Grounded, Grow Pittsburgh, Mission Continues and the City of Pittsburgh will enable the land to be repurposed utilizing donations, local expertise, and ChangeMakers to turn this into a tremendous opportunity to feed local people with local food. The currency will be the medium of exchange that supports ChangeMaker services, pays transporters to move locally grown food to retailers, facilitates trade among retailers, and supports education programs for young people to learn and contribute to local food production.

"It is not surprising that communities are developing community currencies in this time of crisis resulting from the pandemic," notes Dr. Leanne Ussher, economics professor at Bard College in upstate New York. Ussher, an expert in local cur-

rencies, cites The Great Depression in the 1930's, when localities issued small denomination tax receivable IOUs. Individuals paid taxes, fines, fees and utility bills with these IOUs backed by either citizen labor or goods and services that they have. Keeping with small denominations limited risk and helped local governments survive during The Great Depression. "We face similar challenges today, notes Ussher. We have high levels of unemployment and underemployment at the same time we have huge service needs. There are untapped resources that we need to put to action," Ussher notes.

Community currencies can also make considerable impact in long underserved communities such as Hazelwood, especially as traditional forms of government and foundation funding become increasingly insufficient to support the huge levels of need resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has exacerbated existing disparities in poor communities including Black- and Brown-owned small businesses. In response, involveMINT is working with a group of minority-run small businesses and start-ups to determine how the currency can provide support during the pandemic. For instance, interest-free awards of CC to Hazelwood businesses can provide immediate cash liquidity to buttress Federal and State government assistance. Supporting businesses in

*Continued on Page Ten*

## Rewilding

By Jeff Karwoski

Throughout the course of existence, human beings have practiced a variety of lifestyle goals, ambitions and trends when dealing with the natural world around them. As we've moved through history, we have continuously explored our relationship with nature, often times molding that relationship to suit our needs. Popular opinion dictates prerogatives about our view of the natural world, and how we manipulate it to appease ourselves. In other words, it's a monkey see, monkey do scenario with people following their neighbor's lead in how they go about maintaining their properties.

For the most part, the trend has been to un-wild an area and tell ourselves how nice it looks after we tame it into a patch of lawn with a tree, if we're lucky. The "lawn lifestyle" has a universal appeal and has become popular all over the world—there's something about it that makes people feel safe. The question I am posing to you is, do you want to be maintaining it? Now,



The resident of this Gibsonia property has begun a rewilding process where a large section of her lawn has been replaced with native grasses and wildflowers to resemble a Pennsylvania meadow.

Photo: Jeff Karwoski

a lot of people will tell me, "I like mowing the grass" and, as someone who mows some grass, I admit there is a certain appeal to it. The problem is it just keeps growing back. I would like to mow the lawn every once in a while, not every week.

When it comes to landscape, we

say we want low maintenance and then plant something that requires 30-40 maintenances a year—that's a lot of work. For those of you who are nodding your heads, I would like to present an alternative method of maintaining our lawns and our lives. It's a concept called "Rewilding."

Once upon a time, we all led some pretty wild lifestyles. No, I'm not talking about the '70s. I'm talking about hundreds of years ago when we as people coexisted a little better with the natural world. We come from it, after all, so it makes sense to exist with it, but that hasn't always been the case—especially in the last 100 years. We have been shifting away from the natural world and I think it's the wrong direction for us to take. I'm not the only one who feels this way. People around the world have recognized the benefits of "rewilding" their lives, and the trend is catching on.

So, what does it mean to rewild? Rewilding occurs on two different levels. On one level is the physical act of adding natural elements to the

landscape. This means removing some percentage of the lawn and planting trees, shrubs and flowers in its place. In the process of rewilding, these plants are ideally native plants which are the best at providing food and shelter for the birds and the bees which, by the way, are both on the decline. Anything we can plant to help increase their numbers will give us some good environmental karma.

The other level of rewilding is mental. It's about finding new ways to view the world we live in and about making the decision to start embracing nature instead of trying to control it. It's about letting go of your system of beliefs concerning the landscape and how it should be maintained. It's about opening your eyes and your heart to a world that has so much more to offer than blades of grass, and it's about having the satisfaction of knowing that you haven't only been a consumer

*Continued on Page Nine*

## The Green Way

### Bugs

As "our" ecosystem collapses, the smallest forms of life have an advantage. Microbes can reproduce every ten minutes, and so also mutate to adapt much more frequently. We may extinct most larger species, even us, but we will never get rid of the single-cell organisms. There are species of microbes able to withstand thousands of times the amount of radioactivity as us. One such is *Deinococcus radiodurans*, nicknamed Conan the Bacterium (source: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deinococcus\\_radiodurans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deinococcus_radiodurans)).

A more common use of the word "bug" refers to insects—butterflies, moths, bees, ants, flies, ladybugs, stinkbugs, mayflies, fruit flies, spiders, ticks, potato bugs, and others. The population of these vital parts of Earth's food web have been in decline for many years, and are in steep decline now. "If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live." ~Albert Einstein

Having become enraptured with microbes since the third grade when

my mom and dad bought me a microscope, I have learned how vital they are—in soil, for instance. A really good healthy soil may be one-third living organisms—earthworms, bacteria, fungi, viruses, rotifers, nematodes. Hundreds of years ago, our soil was alive and soft. Strawberries grew everywhere, trees and their leaf litter covered the whole United States. Before we extinct the passenger pigeon, skies would be blackened with their flights. Millions of buffaloes in huge herds, along with numerous other kinds of wildlife, with their manures and dying bodies gave a soil so rich none of us in this generation has seen. Doing farm work in West Virginia in the late 1970's, I got to feel soil much softer and richer than what we have today.



**Jim McCue (St. Jim the Composter)**  
Composter & Biotech Researcher  
(412) 880-7237

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#### Plants currently growing in Everybody's Garden:

Rose-of-Sharon, thyme, arugula, cucumber, tomato, sunchoke (Jerusalem artichoke), lambs' quarters, purslane, fig, peppermint, apple mint, lemon grass, hot pepper, pea, garlic, basil, chamomile, roses, dill, collards, strawberries, rappini, horseradish, apple, peach, apricot, mustard, kale, iris, sunflower, parsley, borage, sage, and corn.



## Rewilding - Continued from Page Eight

of nature but also a facilitator of new life.

When you rewild, it changes you. You become softer, more subtle and flexible in your thoughts and approach to life questions. You also learn patience—the patience of waiting for things to grow, a flower to open, the first leaf to emerge after a long winter. You become more in tune with the seasons as you observe the changes exhibited by the plants of your “wild” area. Even by rewilding the smallest spot, you become more in tune with the surrounding world and, let’s face it, we are all out of tune right now.

Rewilding is something we can all do that matters. We all want to do things that matter, right? That’s what brings the most satisfaction to our lives. Rewilding our yards and our spirits not only matters to nature but, since we are all part of nature, it matters to us as well. So, how do we go about this, you ask? Rewilding is a process, and like any process it has steps. The first step is recognizing

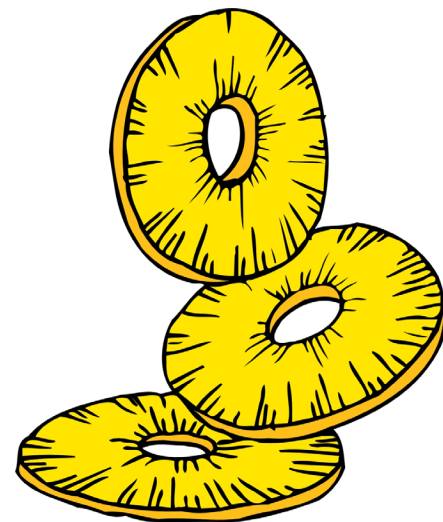
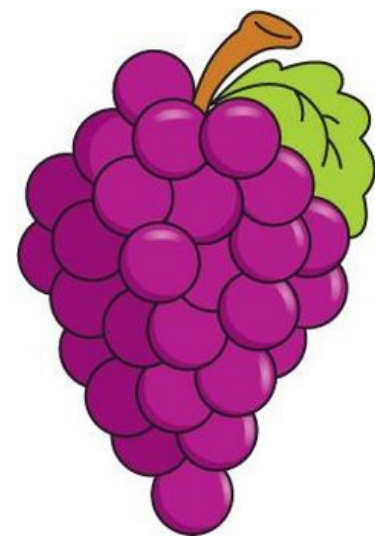
your desire to contribute to nature. That can be a hard step because it means looking at how much damage we have done to the natural world. After you have come to terms with that, you can make the decision to move forward and decide how much rewilding you are willing to do. In my experience, people take small steps until they feel more confident letting nature back in. They like to see positive results before moving forward. Rewilding can be done in a small area. If you can carve out a three by three-foot area to plant native plants, you have made a difference.

Good areas to rewild are areas that are hard to maintain, such as steep hillsides and tight spots for a mower. You might be more willing to eliminate the grass in these areas and plant some more useful plants. Covering the grass with cardboard and a couple inches of wood chips or mulch will kill the grass without having to dig it up. This also keeps weeds to a minimum. It will take

a month or two for the grass to die completely and for the cardboard to decompose. After that happens, you are ready to plant. Seed companies such as Ernst can provide you with the right native seed selection for your area, or you can check the garden centers for native plants in containers. Trees and shrubs are available at nurseries, but you can also order them online. Learning which plants to install is a process you can go through while you’re waiting for the grass to die.

Read Doug Tallamy for inspiration and join the PA Native Plants page on Facebook for tips and suggestions on what to do. You will find out you are not the only one taking steps in this direction. There are a lot of choices you can make but don’t let that intimidate you. Adding some wildness back into our surroundings is a fulfilling and rewarding venture that brings enjoyment and satisfaction to your days. I would strongly recommend it.

*Reference: Penn State Extension*



## The Role of Forests in Neighborhood Growth and Development

**By Matt Peters**

*Chair of the Hazelwood Urban Ag Team*

Hazelwood is unique among Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods for its approach to developing our open space. Our neighborhood is an example to the nation as a model of greener, more sustainable development, sporting the biggest solar array in all of western PA on the old Mill 19 building and incorporating innovative stormwater management infrastructure. As the wave of development lifts our neighborhood out of its “fallow” period, some 40 years of neglect and decay after the steel industry moved out, we take the opportunity to assess what we have and where we are as we decide where to go and how to get there. Hazelwood as a community has invested years and tears in a number of Strategic Plans, all of which emphasize the value of our forests and Greenways as an essential asset and part of our “green infrastructure.”

On a rare hillside, some of these forests are majestic mature oaks with healthy trees easily 150 years old or more. Other areas appear from aerial photos to have been bare of trees as recently as 1950 or so. The hillsides near our Community



The decommissioned Chance Way is the location proposed for the first major new development project in Historic Hazelwood. The woods were set aside under Mayor Tom Murphy’s administration as a “Picket Fence Project” and provide habitat for songbirds, foxes, and nature-lovers.  
Photo: Matt Peters

Garden at the former YMCA are of particular interest to the Urban Ag Team, as these young forests may be best suited for adapting to a semi-cultivation strategy based on the Food Forest model, providing acres of things like apples, walnuts, peaches, pecans, pawpaws, hazelnuts, berries, and other foods that the forest provides. This abundance then becomes the base for jobs in the harvesting and processing of the raw ingredients into usable goods

for public consumption. The forested corridor from the Gladstone School to the Woods House, both significant landmarks that neighborhood residents have rallied to ensure their conservation and protection, deserves the same consideration, as this habitat lends its unique character to these neighborhood assets and enhances their value in ways that dense urban development will irreparably cost us. These forests continue along the steep slopes of the

mountain escarpment all the way to Schenley Park, serving important ecological functions for wildlife even though Greenfield Avenue impedes total connectivity. This serves as all the more reason to ensure that the excitement over renewal and development does not further degrade this feature.

This ecologically-centered model of development builds on the resources we have in abundance, forests and open space, without diminishing that resource. Hazelwood boasts claim to fully one-third of Pittsburgh’s non-park forest lands, a fact recognized by the pair of Bald Eagles that have famously made their nest as our neighbors in Hays Woods. One could not ask for better neighbors than the very symbol of our country! There are decades’ worth of empty lots and vacant land on Hazelwood’s Main Street and mean streets to restore the neighborhood’s housing stock and build the habitat for a thriving commercial zone. As we build this vision, we must take every opportunity to identify those areas where the forest has reclaimed the land and steward that process forward. This development

*Continued on Page Ten*

## ChangeMakers - Continued from Page Seven

the high demand fields of advanced manufacturing, sustainable food production and green energy can also bring new jobs to Hazelwood residents fortifying Hazelwood against economic downturns.

As renowned economist Hyman Minsky once said, "Everyone can create money; the problem is to get it accepted." The key to the success of community currency is encouraging local businesses, anchor organizations and ultimately government agencies to use the currency

to address their own needs. involveMINT identifies local pollinators to spread the word about the currency, build trust among stakeholders, and facilitate community networks of exchange. "Once business owners get the hang of it, they get excited because they can see the potential of using CC's to secure resources to address their own needs while supporting local job growth in the community," notes Stacy Desai, Partnership Development Manager for involveMINT and co-author of this

article. The goal is to reach a tipping point, where hundreds of community members and businesses are using the currency to meet their own needs, reducing dependence on outside forces, increasing economic and social resilience and wellbeing.

If you are interested in learning more about CCs and becoming a ChangeMaker earning local currency, please visit [involvemint.io/get-involved](http://involvemint.io/get-involved) and contact Stacy Desai at [partnerships@involvemint.io](mailto:partnerships@involvemint.io).



## The Role of Forests - Continued from Page Nine

model is consistent with the City's Climate Action and Mitigation Plan, which states unambiguously enough, "HALT the conversion of forest canopy to development" and even provides an economic incentive for expansion of forested lands in our city. The value of our forests in mitigating climate change becomes more urgently important by the day. Fortunately, scientists are coming to understand that as forests mature and age, their ability to absorb carbon appears to increase, mainly due to the recovery of fungal and microbial relationships in the soils. A small patch of forest provides ecological services to an urban community in ways that street trees cannot match.

The role of our Greenway forests

in neighborhood revitalization and recovery brings many returns on the investment. In their current state, where our forests meet the remaining neighborhood, their unkempt appearance may give the opportunity to consider these as "waste" places, but a bird's eye view and a possum's eye view gives a different perspective. Forests such as these are increasingly recognized by City administration across the U.S. as opportunities to tend parks and forested areas with goats, and surely school lunches could only be improved by any fresh milk or meat that makes its way into their kitchens. Forests provide a myriad of intangible benefits as well. The development of a coherent foot trail network connecting us to neighborhoods like Oakland

and Greenfield to the northeast, and Swissvale/Regent Square around the river's bend at the other end of Hazelwood, would provide a carbon-free transportation corridor that would compete fairly with the time it would take to get to these neighborhoods in an automobile. These kinds of quality-of-life features are what will attract the next generation of Hazelwood community members, every bit as much as clean jobs and safe schools. How does one measure the effect that a glimpse of a fox has on the value of a home there in the neighborhood? What will the value of a functioning food-forest system be in ten or 20 years? These factors must be included with the calculations when deciding whether and how to "develop" this or that piece of earth.

Our neighborhood is situated in a

beautiful valley, with splendid forest views across the river and forests cradling all around us, a buffer against the crazy world. Every acre of these forests provides ecosystem services like filtering Saharan dust and Clairton pollution out of the air we breathe, absorbing the floodwaters that flood our basements when it rains, cooling the summer heat, all of which make life more pleasant to say the least. Every acre contributes to climate stability and resilience. Every acre provides opportunities for food security and sovereignty, with the extra bonus of birdsong in the spring mornings and fireflies in the summer nights. "Development without Displacement" means not displacing our forests as we build the dream we share.

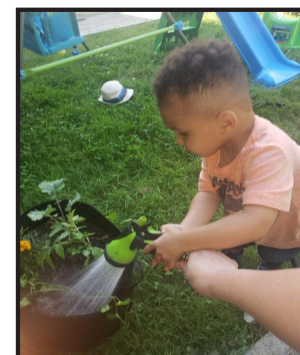
## Grounded in Hazelwood



Our Youth Programming looks a little different this season, but we are taking vacancy and underutilized land head on. Ashley Seiler, Joe Hepner, and 5 youth from Hazelwood are social distancing and cleaning areas of blight. The youth work and learn with the direction of Ashley for 4 hours at EveryBuddy's Garden on Lytle st. They are also required, through the Youth Reclaim Programming, to do 4 hours working in the community on their own. They photo-document their work and are earning scholarship funds, along with other incentives and valuable life skills. These young men are nothing short of amazing.



Jim McCue, Grounded and The Mission Continues have been hard at work to establish and upkeep the garden spaces further. The adjacent lot is also now being developed into a teaching garden. The space will be child-friendly for sensory play and learning.



Grounded is proud to announce that we were able to give over 50 Grow Bags to families/households in Hazelwood through the generous funding of The Heinz Endowments and our Grounded at Home campaign.

g

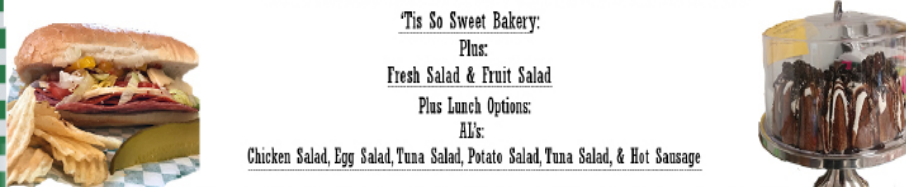
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# Home Improvement Projects You Can Start (and Finish!) This Weekend

By Julie Block

We are in the heat of summer (literally!), and have all spent more than enough time at home. In our house, our honey-do list has grown longer than we'd like, so we've been prioritizing projects based on which ones fit most comfortably into our budget, free-time, and skillsets. Here's the good news: Whether you have experience in home improvement or not, there are projects you can tackle in a single weekend. Yes, even if you've never touched a hammer in your life, there are simple projects you can take on that will make your home more comfortable—and may even raise its value!

Here are a few ways you can make your home a little more comfortable—and places you can visit to talk to experts and make sure you have the right supplies.

**1. Make an outdoor firepit.** Sitting around the firepit is a lovely, relaxing way to spend a summer evening. Depending on how ambitious you are, all you really need is some sand, gravel, and stone.

**Where to find supplies:** Sestili Nursery at 3721 Swinburne St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Oakland)

**2. Paint the walls for a splash of color.** A little color goes a long way! Paint an entire room a solid color to establish emotion or pick a single accent wall for some real pop. Our current favorite color is Sherwin Williams "Sea Salt", which is calm and neutral, with a hint of green.

**Where to find supplies:** Pennwood Paint & Supply Co at 724 Wood St., Pittsburgh, PA 15221 (Wilkinsburg)

**3. Retile a floor.** This could take a little longer than a weekend depending on how ambitious you are, but many of today's flooring options can go right over your current floor without a ton of prep work. Under the right circumstances, you can redo your bathroom or kitchen floor in a single afternoon.

**Where to find supplies:** Floor Designs Unlimited Flooring America at 3330 Library Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15234 (Castle Shannon)

**4. Install molding/trim.** If your house doesn't have molding or trim around your windows, ceiling, or floors, a little bit can add an extra level of sophistication. Many hardware stores sell mold work already cut, so all you need to do is paint or

stain it before installation.

**Where to find supplies:** Lowe's Home Improvement at 690 E Waterfront Dr., Munhall, PA 15120 (Homestead)

**5. Replace your sink (or just the faucet).** A new kitchen sink can transform your entire cooking and prep experience. If you're not ready to dive into a project of that size, try opting for a new faucet.

**Where to find supplies:** Pittsburgh Kitchenrama at 3340 Smallman St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201 (Lawrenceville)

We've done our share of home improvement projects in the past (Ted has flipped homes and we're putting the finishing touches on our new house before we move in), so we know some of the challenges you may run into. Feel free to reach out to us at [theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com](mailto:theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com) or by calling 412.926.7976.



Painting our living room and rearranging the furniture totally transformed the space!

July 11, 2019  
5112 2nd Ave

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Alfred Dirosa

Home with a Heart

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Bill Muldoon  
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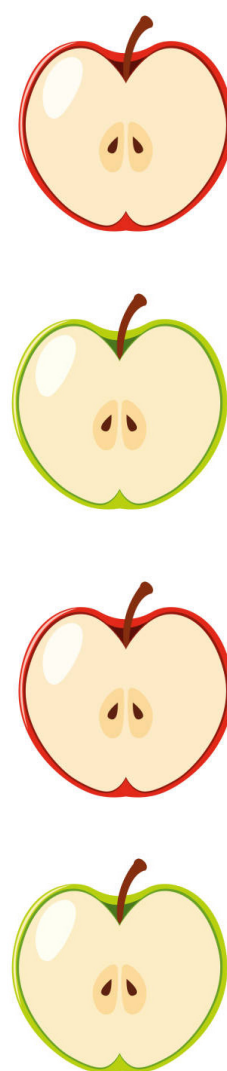
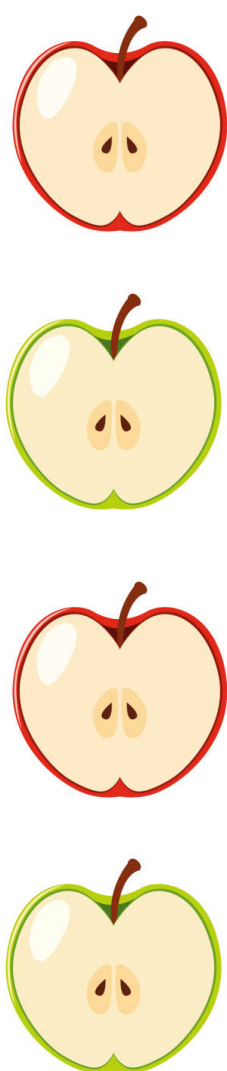
A house is made of brick and stone but a home is made of love alone.

Bless this house Lord  
Rainbow is a promise from GOD. He is faithful!

This Old House of Mine is now a Home... because of the people that dwell within....

So what is a Homepage... without a Home of Heart with the Art...

ACB



# New Development Changes Coming to Hazelwood by the Woods Village Project

By Gerri Tipton

Hazelwood is starting to become a thriving community in the city of Pittsburgh. Within the last year, new restaurants have opened, neighborhood events have surfaced, community organizations and more housing projects have been developed. As a millennial who has lived in Hazelwood since elementary school, I have always wondered why Hazelwood didn't have as many businesses and shops just like other neighborhoods. The ones we did have didn't stay in the neighborhood too long, which left some of us having to travel to closer neighborhoods for what we needed. But, with the help of the Woods Village Project, changes and development in Hazelwood are soon to come.

The project came about during the development stage of planning to reconstruct the historic John Woods House. It has been in development for over a year now. The goal of the project was to understand its challenges and priorities, and to get input on the project development activities. "We saw the potential in this area to help rebuild a community that has seen decades of slow growth," said Krish Pandya, who is the managing partner of Oak Moss Associates. Oak Moss is a local Pittsburgh developer that has been working on the historic rehabilitation of the John Woods House in Hazelwood. "It has built strong community ties and is familiar with the Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan," said Pandya. I conducted a question and answer format for my interview with Pandya so he's able to provide the most detailed information on the project.

### What is the Woods Village Project?

"It is a proposal to build new rental residential units along Monongahela Street, between Tullymet Street and Berwick Street. These are vacant city owned lots that used to be homes at one time. The goal is to build a community back in a neighborhood that has lost so much of its industry, commerce, and residents. We would be building new homes in an area that the original houses where abandoned and torn down years ago."

### What changes will be made?

"We plan to reopen a street that has been shut down to keep people out. Positioned close to the Hazelwood Green Development and Hazelwood Greenway, the project has the potential to create a transitional point for visitors entering the neighborhood via the Greenway and Tech Park. Improved access to city steps through increased maintenance surrounding and leading to these existing features is a top priority for the project. The sites unique location between two sets of city steps leading off Hazelwood's greenway increases its ability to become a place of gathering situated within the community. Site features will include green communal spaces and areas of refuge for pedestrian traffic to help facilitate new interaction in an otherwise under activated artery in the neighborhood."

### What services will the project provide to residents? What jobs will be created?

"Apprenticeship programs provide critical access to career pathways and enable apprentices to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to compete in today's economy. We are researching

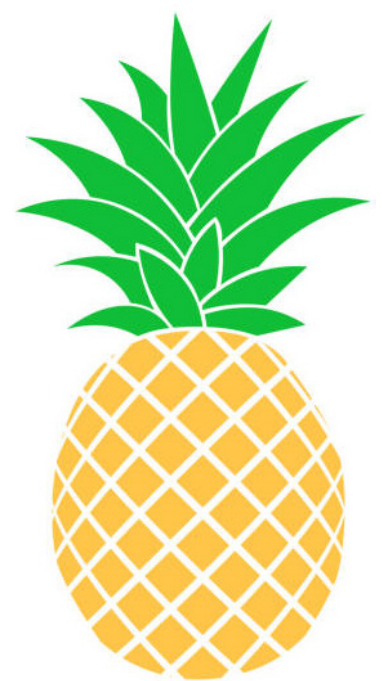
what type of certification we can have offered from the program. Initial thoughts are that the program is sparked by the Woods Village project but will continue by constructing new homes on blighted lots as well as develop a part of the program to restore existing historic properties in the area. We are currently working on building out the specifics of the program. As a mixed-use/commercial component of the proposal's plan, the intention is to have local businesses and small, private concerns or workshare spaces, as opposed to chain stores or franchises. The project will also create some long-term job opportunities for site maintenance, mechanical and electrical work, and landscaping."

### Why is this project important for Hazelwood residents?


"Our goal is to breathe new life into the neighborhood by giving existing residents the opportunity to seek better housing as well as bring residents into the neighborhood. As the existing housing stock dwindles in the area, we would be adding reasonable rental options for people to stay in the neighborhood and new residents to join them in rebuilding this community and the Second

Avenue commercial district."

With this project, people can look forward to a training and apprenticeship program in 2021—a "real public-private partnership" where financial interest is given to community groups so that as Hazelwood grows, residents directly benefit. The Woods Village project is expected to have homes ready by the year 2024.







**Woods Village – Concept Visuals**  
 Preliminary conceptual layouts and designs have been developed



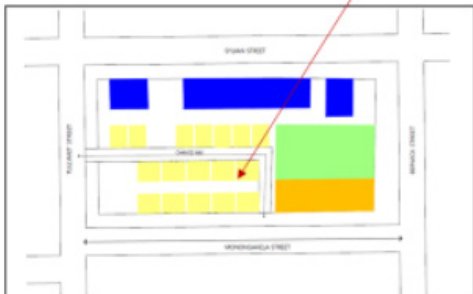
**Phase 1:**

- ❖ 66 Residential Units (16 Affordable)
- ❖ 20% amenity/outdoor space
- ❖ 11,000 sq. ft of retail space

**PLAN KEY:**

- RESIDENTIAL
- MIXED USE / COMMERCIAL
- PARK SPACE
- OPEN SPACE
- PRIMARY STREET
- SECONDARY STREET




# Final Hazelwood 'Play Stop' in Food Series Embodies 'Feeding' the Community

By Bridget Fertal

What feeds your mind, body, heart and soul? Hazelwood community members were asked this question as a part of the final "play stop" in the food cycle of the Hazelwood Play Trail. Located at the Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood, the play installation includes red benches, a small community garden and a collage of images, each one portraying a community member who has made an impact on Hazelwood.

"Each person was asked to share three words that describe 'what feeds your mind, body, heart and/or soul?' or words that describe their belonging/involvement in Hazelwood," Sarah Siplak, former director of the Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative, explained. Many of the individuals pictured have a presence in the Spartan Center as well through one of the many community events, afterschool programs, community programs and non-profits housed inside. The Spartan Community Center is "a place where the community comes together to share food," Siplak said. "The original hope was for the plants to be a mini community garden that people could harvest if they like," she continued.

The Neighborhood Play Stops Project was part of the KaBOOM! Play Everywhere Challenge. The Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative (an initiative of Trying Together) received the grant in 2018 and partnered with Edith Abeyta of Arts Excursions Unlimited and Dylan Rooke, a local community activist and artist, to help lead the work. "We found three different places that were willing to let us to "deface" or "beautify" their spaces in fun creative ways," Rooke explained in an interview with Arts Excursions Unlimited. "We're trying to connect the community to the ways it intersects with food."

Rooke and Abeyta, along with a team of helpers from the community, rebuilt the old benches, mounted the images, planted the garden and painted the pavement, marking the distinction between the "play stop" and the parking lot. "Working with Arts Excursions Unlimited and Edith this past year has been awesome, partly because it's in my neighborhood and the spaces I intersect with regularly," Rooke said in the interview. Abeyta expressed her

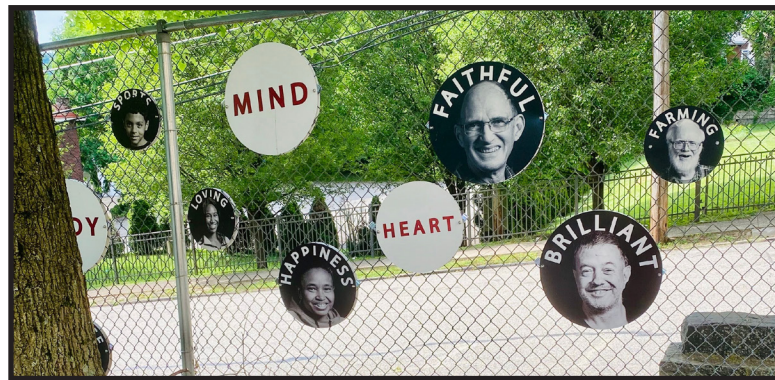
love for making art out in the community, explaining that the process "always engages people/passersby" who share stories, tips, history and give feedback.

This play stop is an extension of the Hazelwood Play Trail, a series of installations created to highlight the importance of play in communities. The Spartan Center play stop is the end of the food cycle of the trail, which includes the Hazelwood Community Garden, where food is grown; Dylamato's Market, where food is distributed; and the Spartan Center, where food is shared. Siplak explained many community members were included in the project throughout its course, whether through ideas, feedback or labor. "Hazelwood is a neighborhood filled with passionate people who care deeply about their community and each other, and this gathering space brings all of that heart and soul together," Siplak said.

Thank you to the following individuals who helped with the Spartan Center project (in no particular order):

**Heather Mull** - portrait photographer  
**Joseph Hepner** - outreach  
**Aniya McCoy** - fabrication/installation  
**Alexyah Naylor** - fabrication/installation  
**Al Ferguson** - fabrication/installation  
**Marcé Nixon Washington** - fabrication/installation  
**Tayshawn Watkins** - labor assistance  
**Tyler Livingston** - painting/planting  
**Myah Livingston** - painting/planting  
**Shailynn Mwangi** - painting/planting  
**Three Rivers Village School students** - painting  
**Elijah White** - labor assistance  
**Judah Collins** - clean-up

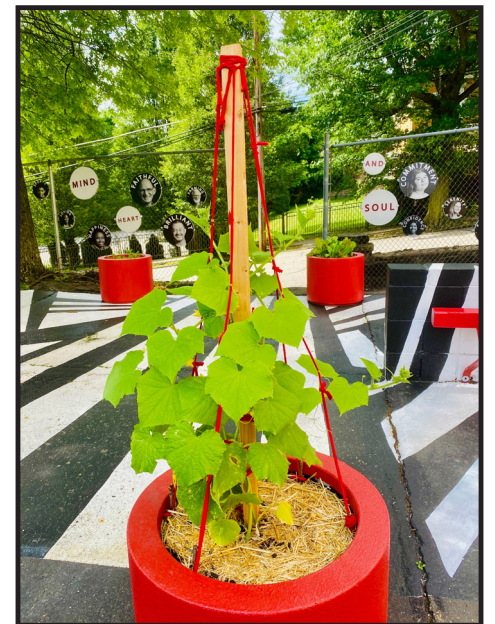
*Visit the new play stop at the Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood, 134 E Elizabeth St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207. For more information on the programs mentioned in this article, visit their websites: Playful Pittsburgh at [www.playfulpittsburgh.org](http://www.playfulpittsburgh.org); Trying Together at [www.tryingtogether.org](http://www.tryingtogether.org); Arts Excursions Unlimited at [www.artsexcursionsunlimited.com](http://www.artsexcursionsunlimited.com); and KABOOM! At [www.kaboom.org](http://www.kaboom.org).*



Photos by Bridget Fertal



Marcé Nixon Washington and Edith Abeyta applying some finishing touches of paint.



# Arts Excursions Unlimited Hosts Local Flea Market

By Gerri Tipton

Flea markets are one of the most popular shopping experiences. Also known as a swap meet, it's usually a place where vendors can sell merchandise that was previously owned. People like going to flea markets to see what things they can use in their home for a cheaper price than finding it in a retail store.

Joe Hepner, the community outreach coordinator for Arts Excursions Unlimited, hosted this event last month to fundraise for their organization. "Arts Excursions Unlimited (AEU) is a three-tiered arts and cultural program designed by and for residents in the Greater Hazelwood neighborhoods to foster creative self-determination," said Hepner. "Residents of Hazelwood, Glen Hazel and Glenwood research the city, region, state, and nation by visiting arts and cultural sites." The location of each excursion is determined by the community, and varies from museums and galleries to steel mills. The ideas and the research developed are then brought back to the neighborhood and are tested out at the Satellite Studio. "This space functions to build creative skills and generate ideas."

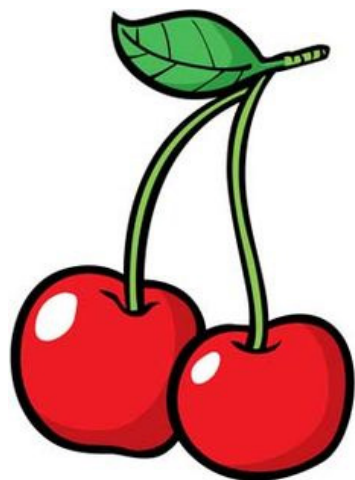
Arts Excursions Unlimited started back in July 2015, after a year-long residency at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Hazelwood branch in June 2014. Artist Edith Abeyta was selected to be the artist for the Office of Public Art's Artist in the Public Realm Residency program. "Abeyta spent one year getting to know residents in the Greater Hazelwood community and identifying creative projects residents wanted to see in their neighborhood. Seventeen projects were proposed by community members. Through a series of meetings, discussions and rankings Arts Excursions Unlimited was the most popular."

Although Arts Excursions does not create any of the paintings, the work is mostly formed by public art with the help of Hazelwood residents. "We have completed two painting projects in Hazelwood. One is a mural on the Elizabeth Street bridge commissioned by the City of Pittsburgh. We worked with artist Sandy Kessler Kaminski on it. The second is an asphalt painting project at the Spartan Community Center in collaboration with Hazelwood

artist Dylan Rooke, commissioned by Trying Together with funds from Keurig/Dr. Pepper."

The reason behind operating the flea market/fundraiser is to connect Arts Excursions with different vendors and have the opportunity for different communities to work together. "There are not a lot of businesses in Hazelwood for residents to get the things they need. I thought this would be a good opportunity for shoppers to connect with neighborhood entrepreneurs." Other local organizations such as Praise Temple and POORLAW gave out necessities such as free toiletries, cleaning supplies, infant formula and paper goods, and Hazelwood Initiative was signing people up for their COVID-19 grants. The types of items sold were clothes, toys, jewelry, housewares, books and miscellaneous items for a Pay What You Want pricing structure. "Buyers determined how much they would pay for the objects they wanted. Other vendors sold soap, hair care products, bicycles, t-shirts, vintage clothes and ceramics."

Arts Excursions Unlimited will be hosting another flea market on Saturday, August 8th from 10am to 3pm, and a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to be delivered on August 15th. To find out more information, call Joe Hepner at 412-628-6499. To get involved and show support, you can like their Facebook page: Arts Excursions Unlimited, check out their website, [www.artsexcursionsunlimited.com](http://www.artsexcursionsunlimited.com), or come to their events and help advocate for more public art in the neighborhood.



## GIANT Hazelwood Flea Market Returns!

**August 8 (10am - 3pm)**

4915 Second Ave

(Parking lot next to C&D's and across from Rite Aid)

**Furniture**

**Toys**

**Clothes**

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All proceeds to benefit free art programming and excursions for Hazelwood residents through Arts Excursions Unlimited

**Contact: 412-628-6499**

 **ARTS EXCURSIONS UNLIMITED**



# My Personal Experience with a Professional Dating Coach

By Gerri Tipton

Dating in this era, on top of being a millennial, has been hard. With me being still so young, you would expect me to be on a bunch of dates every now and then, and just to casually meet new people. Well, not anymore. I was active on dating sites in the past, and I had some minor luck, but mostly not what I expected. I met guys, went on dates, we communicated and talked for a while, then it would just fade. The term most commonly used for this is “ghosting.” Then I was meeting guys who didn’t want the same things I wanted (a serious relationship); most of them just wanted “hook ups” or “friends with benefits” or literally wanted to just obtain a friendship. That was cool and all, but it isn’t what I wanted. So, after so many failed attempts, I gave up on the dating scene.

Back in February, I wrote a piece on Valentine’s Day and how single people like myself maintain their sanity and happiness. Whether it was spending time alone, with friends or family, the objective was to cele-

brate the love of yourself and others around you. The article caught the eye of Barbara Klein, a professional life/dating coach, and she asked me to interview her on her services she provides through her company, The Best You Dating and Life Coaching, LLC.

One of the services Klein provides is group coaching sessions, where she has zoom meetings with women who are single and actively looking for a partner. This was the group coaching session I was involved in. The meetings were every two weeks at 7pm on Mondays, and we focused on certain topics about dating, what we’re looking for, and really broke down the emphasis on what we want in our partner. These things ranged from activities to long term relationship goals. She wanted us to think of our purpose for dating and what we wanted out of it.

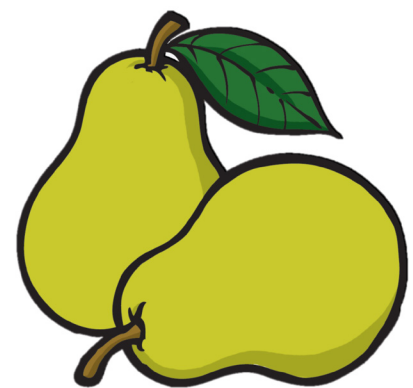
I must admit, at first, I felt kind of silly talking with a dating coach because, at my age, I didn’t think that it was necessary. I thought that if one guy didn’t work out, it was on to the next one. My mom would always tell me that I’m still young and

that I would be able to find someone soon. But when? I was anxious and running out of patience. And after so many let downs, I figured that a dating coach could help guide me in the right direction in finding the right match.

Going through the coaching has really helped my experience because not only did I focus on what I wanted in partner, I realized more things about myself and the mistakes I have been making when it comes to dating. I feel like I am a good communicator but, when it comes to dating, I’m not as vocal as I should be when it’s time for me to express what I want. I’ve always been the “go with the flow” type of girl, and whatever was to happen will happen. But because of that mindset, I’ve never had what I wanted, and it always left me disappointed.

I’ve learned to become more vocal, more open to things, and to be more confident. I’ve also learned to stand up for myself more, because people will only do what you allow. And believe me, I’ve let people get away with so much when it came to dating just so I wouldn’t be alone.

This process has been very therapeutic for me. It was great getting the counseling I needed to help me succeed in dating. Of course, it is good to talk to your friends and family about your issues, but talking to someone from the outside who doesn’t know you can give you the advice you’re really looking for. Klein’s program is good for people of all ages looking to date, and need support with their issues. I learned to be patient, and to know that my time will come.



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## Local Writers

### Rainy Sabbath on the Porch

A Poem by Walt Peterson

The kid on the porch across the street  
belts one into right field,  
white shirt pulls from black slacks  
by unorthodox swing.

He starts for first, changes his mind,

charges into deep right,  
tist-tsis trailing behind,  
baseball cap with no brim...

Near the porch railing, with back to the plate,  
he catches the ball, in one  
smooth move pegs to third

like Clemente years ago.

Hoak catches the throw: kid's trapped in a run-down.

He fakes toward second.

The ball's flipped to the all-star  
imaginary short stop.

The runner dives between legs  
scattering cheap, white plastic  
chairs all over the infield porch.

Hits the turf with a thud.

Suddenly, big sister in beige dress  
charges onto the porch,

rights one chair,

benches kid brother.

And from here, Fans,

we can't tell what she's saying

but, Holy Moses,

the way her jaw ratchets o

she must be readin' him the riot act.

When Sis finishes with our hero,  
she wheels, heads into the house, spits  
a hot jet of tobacco into the bullpen  
before the screen door slams.

*Walt Peterson is a writer and teacher from Pittsburgh and is a rostered artist for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.*



### Reader Call: The Six Word Challenge

The concept of distilling a story or poem down to a mere six words has existed for several decades, with the first well-known example being attributed to Ernest Hemingway in the 1920's (though there is no official record of him writing any six-word stories). For years, Eric Boyd wrote one or more six-word pieces a day, often by request. People wrote to him with long, complicated prompts or real-life experiences which they wanted to see condensed into six words. Often these were philosophical or deeply personal, sometimes they were downright absurd. Readers of The Homepage are continually invited to reach out, participate and request such works as well! Please email editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org with your prompts, challenges, or real-world scenarios to be turned into a six-word story/poem.

Check out the latest prompt submissions and the poems created by local writers, Anne Algeo and Sherri Adelfkoff, below!

**Write a 6-word poem about showing emotion while wearing a mask.**

Hidden below, a smile saying "Hello!"

**Write a 6-word poem about a future without police.**

Loving neighborhoods protecting each other's livelihoods.

**Write a 6-word poem about tree saplings growing up through cobblestone streets.**

Where the wind blew, I grew.

—Anne Algeo

**Write a 6-word poem about showing emotion while wearing a mask.**

Can't disguise the truth in eyes.

**Write a 6-word poem about a future without police.**

Without the cops, law enforcement stops.

**Write a 6-word poem about tree saplings growing up through cobblestone streets.**

We fit in because we're thin.

—Sherri Adelfkoff

**Here are prompts for next month's issue!**  
**Please submit your work by Friday, August 21st.**

Write a 6-word poem about:

- Cooking during the hottest summer on record.
- Positive change brought on by the pandemic.
- A life-altering experience you had while visiting another country.

# Acetyl-Glutathione Benefits Demand Your Attention



Dear Friends,

Acetyl-Glutathione is becoming a hugely popular supplement since its very recent discovery. This supplement allows people to effectively increase Glutathione levels without costly IV treatments, making this master antioxidant available through a pill or capsule. Glutathione pills have been around for quite a while; however, they have never been the most effective way to increase cellular Glutathione levels. This is because Glutathione is quickly destroyed during the digestive process, leaving only a fraction of intact Glutathione for absorption.

In the past, the most effective way to increase Glutathione levels—without spending an arm and a leg on costly IV treatments—was to supplement the precursors that allow our bodies to produce Glutathione naturally. One popular supplement can be used to increase endogenous Glutathione production and efficiency, the precursor N-Acetyl Cysteine. N-Acetyl Cysteine (NAC) plays an integral role in promoting Glutathione production within the cell, as well as recycling oxidized Glutathione in order to rid the body of toxins and maintain high levels of Glutathione at all times.

What is Acetyl-Glutathione? Unlike a typical immune response that is triggered once the problem has occurred or is beginning, Glutathione is responsible for maintaining health and preventing issues before they occur. It comes as a surprise to most people that our Glutathione levels are actually lowest when we fall ill, they also drop significantly year after year as we age. This makes it very important to supplement Acetyl-Glutathione and NAC daily once you enter adulthood. It may seem early, but Glutathione levels begin to drop

after age 20. Years ago, it was much harder and much more expensive to supplement Glutathione levels. With the medical breakthrough of Acetyl Glutathione though, it is much easier, cheaper and readily available to everyone to supplement and improve not only longevity, but quality of life.

## Enhanced Absorption of Acetyl Glutathione

As mentioned earlier, Glutathione has a very hard time being absorbed by our bodies, breaking down before it has a chance to permeate our stomach wall. Essentially throwing money down the toilet because those Glutathione pills you bought have less than a 5% absorption rate. This has been remedied with the discovery of Acetyl Glutathione benefits. In layman's terms, they simply wrapped the Glutathione molecule in a shield. This shield not only protects the Glutathione molecule from harm when inside the digestive tract, it also ushers the master antioxidant directly through the stomach lining and into our bloodstream to be distributed to every cell in our body in a very timely fashion compared to traditional methods. While supplementing precursors such as N-Acetyl Cysteine are an effective way to improve Glutathione levels, it is not nearly as direct or as quick as supplementing Acetyl-Glutathione directly. When supplementing in tandem, NAC and Acetyl Glutathione hold extreme health benefits that outweigh any individual benefits of these super nutrients.

## Powerful Antioxidant Glutathione Combats Inflammation Associated with IBS

Although multiple factors may contribute to IBS, inflammation is becoming more recognized as a possible cause. Even though inflammation levels are generally low-grade, it still can result in intestinal damage that results in dysfunction of the gastrointestinal tract. Glutathione is an essential antioxidant that plays a critical role within the body. Researchers have become more interested in the use of glutathione as an IBS treatment because research shows how effective it is at reducing inflammation. It's helped reduce symptoms in patients with inflammatory bowel

disease, and it may be just as useful for individuals who have IBS.

## Acetyl Glutathione Benefits Your Health Like Nothing Else!

A lot of health supplements have a hard time explaining exactly how they help; Acetyl Glutathione is no exception. However, most supplements have this problem because they really don't help a whole lot, so pinpointing their benefits is a difficult task to say to the least. Acetyl Glutathione has quite the opposite problem; it helps every aspect of your body, health and cellular function. It is present in each and every cell in your body, and every cell in every living organism on the planet. It plays the kingpin role when it comes to detoxifying our cells and maintaining healthy cellular production and function.

Some of the more popular Acetyl Glutathione benefits are those to do with liver disease, kidney health and cognitive health and function. Acetyl Glutathione has such a profound effect on these three areas because of its antioxidant role, literally going through each cell, latching onto harmful toxins, free radicals and chemicals, flushing them out of our system before they have a chance to accumulate and manifest into potentially life-threatening health conditions. Our liver and kidneys are often overloaded with toxins from our modern environment, lifestyle and dietary choices, bombarding the organs responsible for cleansing our bodies. An overworked liver causes inflammation and eventually cirrhosis and liver failure, all the while it is pouring the excess toxins back into our bloodstream to be distributed across our bodies, accumulating in our brain, tissues, heart and eventually leading to more severe and varied conditions beyond liver disease.

## Buying the "Right" Acetyl-Glutathione Supplement

When looking for an Acetyl-Glutathione supplement it is important to understand how other nutrients can fit into the equation. First of all, finding Acetyl L-Glutathione is critical. Look for a supplement that also contains precursors that will allow for prolonged production of Glutathione and increase its efficiency. Finding a supplement with Acetyl Glutathione and a pre-

cursor such as N-Acetyl Cysteine is a fantastic start, beyond directly fortifying Glutathione levels you should look into supplements such as CoQ10, which benefits cellular energy production. It is particularly useful for individuals with heart issues or those who want to help prevent heart disease. CoQ10 benefits range nearly as wide as the benefits of Acetyl Glutathione and, when taken together, they can not only dramatically improve your health and wellbeing, but increase stamina, cognitive function and make you feel years younger.

## Try it Out, Feel the Difference with Acetyl Glutathione

Supplementing Acetyl-Glutathione will do absolute wonders for your health and wellbeing, but to see huge improvements that can be marked and felt beyond a doubt, try to incorporate a few other key nutrients such as NAC and CoQ10. These benefits will be felt and recognized, minimizing chronic pain, regulating brain chemicals to improve mood and sleep regularity, all while preventing disease and cognitive decline. Acetyl-Glutathione is too beneficial to ignore its effects and potential to improve your health and lifestyle. Aging may not be preventable, but the signs and symptoms of aging certainly can be!

To Your Health,

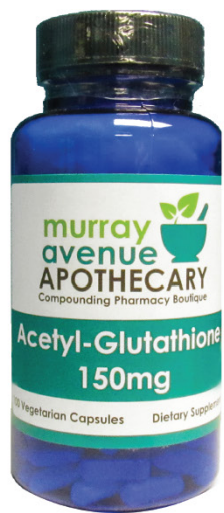
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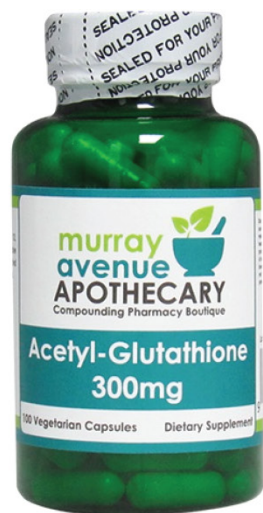


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Order by August 14<sup>th</sup>

Call Joe Hepner to place an order: 412-628-6499



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When your items are ready you will receive a notice via email, telephone or text. When you get this notice, please call your location to arrange a pick-up time. All visitors will need to have a confirmed appointment time in order to pick up their items.



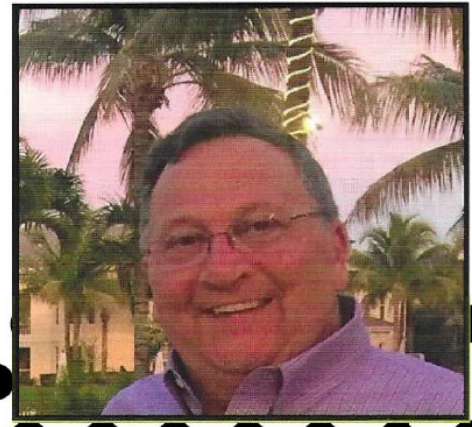
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