



# The Homepage

Serving the communities of  
Greater Hazelwood • Greenfield • 31st Ward • New Homestead • The Run

Volume 11, No. 1

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January 2022

## Warm memories of winter holiday fun and good cheer in the neighborhood



The Clauses made an appearance in the 31st Ward First Annual Holiday Parade. See photos from neighborhood holiday festivities on pages 8-12. Photo by Ryan Herbinko

## Proposed laws will help making housing safer, healthier and more accessible

By Juliet Martinez

State Sen. Nikil Saval (D, Philadelphia) proposed two new laws and one amendment to an existing law in 2021. All three focus on housing access for renters, and home repairs for low-income households.

The Fair Chance Housing Act would amend the 1955 Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. This act outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, ancestry, age or national origin. The amendment would add criminal history to this list of protected statuses.

The 1955 act protects Pennsylvanians from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation. However, landlords often reject rental applications of

See HOUSING on Page 16

## Irvine Avenue sidewalk repairs receive funding; construction projected to take from June to late January

By Junction Coalition

Long-needed sidewalk construction on Irvine Street between Hazelwood and Greenfield Avenues got more attention recently when updates to the project's Engage PGH page raised questions about funding.

Although the fact sheet linked from the webpage stated the project is only funded for design and the Department of Mobility and Transportation [DOMI] is looking for funding, construction is funded and slated to begin in June.

DOMI's chief engineer, Eric Setzler, said the project received a grant of \$120,000 from the Pennsylvania

Department of Community and Economic Development, plus \$1 million in funding from the \$335 million Pittsburgh received as part of the American Rescue Plan [ARP].

Mr. Setzler said the Irvine Street project consists mainly of sidewalk and curb replacements with updated graded ramps at intersections. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires these modifications.

"We would like to get as much curb reveal as possible," he said, referring to the height of a curb that helps provide separation from the road. As layers of asphalt are added to a road over time, its level rises closer to the adjacent sidewalk.

Other Irvine Street improvements include adjusting drainage from the sidewalks and adding a small retaining wall to "hold the slope back"—especially near the Greenfield Avenue end of Irvine Street. The area currently has rock-filled wire cages called gabion baskets.

Mr. Setzler added that the project is on track, with design scheduled to wrap up by late January.

Run resident Barb Warwick noticed the outdated fact sheet and commented on the page, along with several other community members, calling for construction funds to be taken from the budget of the un-

See IRVINE on Page 5

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

The Homepage is delivered monthly for free to residents of Hazelwood, Glen Hazel, Greenfield, Hays, New Homestead, and Lincoln Place. All readers, and those who have an interest in these communities, are encouraged to use this paper as a platform to promote resources, events, services, and community initiatives to further connect and strengthen their neighborhoods.

Send letters and story ideas to:  
[editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org)

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 advertising 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.

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## PUBLISHER'S PAGE

### We are changing our ad rates. Here's why.

In case we haven't met, I'm Juliet Martinez, the managing editor of The Homepage. Since I started in August, I have been getting to know more about the neighborhoods we cover. I have met some of you and learned a lot. In the process, I have gained a deeper respect for the resilient communities it is my privilege to serve.

But there is something that needs to change. Hazelwood Initiative, which publishes The Homepage, is a community development corporation. Our motto is "Building a stronger Hazelwood through inclusive community development." The Homepage promotes this goal by keeping you informed about and – we hope – engaged in the news that affects you.

The Homepage also plays an important role as an advertising vehicle. We help small businesses attract new customers through advertising. But our current ad pricing structure has made this difficult. To put it simply, our smallest ads have been overpriced and our largest ads discounted. This puts small businesses at a disadvantage. It excludes them, which goes against our mission.

So, we have decided to make a change.

As of January 1, The Homepage has adopted a per-column-inch pricing structure. This means that if an advertiser has a small ad budget, they can afford to buy a small ad. Medium budget, medium ad, and so on. No mini-mart owner, food truck operator or mom-and-pop business in 15207 should ever feel they cannot afford to advertise in The Homepage.

For those who buy larger ad sizes, our rates will remain competitive with other community newspapers. Unlike other newspapers, The Homepage charges the same for color and black-and-white ads. And we offer generous discounts to community-based nonprofits.

If you have a small business of any kind, The Homepage is here to help you grow. And if you aren't a business owner, please look through these pages and find local businesses to support. Together we can help our communities thrive.

Wishing you the very best in 2022,

Juliet Martinez



## Become a Hazelwood Initiative member and make your voice heard!

Hazelwood Initiative proudly serves all residents of Hazelwood and Glen Hazel. While anyone can attend HI meetings, only members can elect or serve on the Board of Directors. Members also receive our weekly newsletter, keeping you informed about upcoming meetings, community events and job opportunities. Membership is free; having a voice in your community is priceless.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/HazelwoodInitiativeMembership> or complete and return the following:

Title (circle one) Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms. Mx. Dr.  
 Name (first, last) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Apartment \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Landline (circle one)  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renter Homeowner (circle one)  
 Race \_\_\_\_\_  
 Racial makeup of household \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Hazelwood Initiative  
 4901 Second Ave.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Food and clothing

#### Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel of Hazelwood

Food and clothing distribution: Saturday, September 4th, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Saturday, September 18th, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Community dinners: Sunday, September 5th, 4:00-6:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 19th 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.)

Phone: (412) 521-0844

Address: Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel, 5319 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15207

#### Hazelwood YMCA Food Pantry

Food box distribution: First Saturday of every month

Phone: (412) 421-2708

Address: 134 E. Elizabeth St, Pittsburgh, PA, 15207

#### Fishes and Loaves

Meals on Wheels: Monday through Friday home meal delivery, free to anyone who needs food in Hazelwood, The Run, Greenfield and Glen Hazel

Congregate lunch: Eat in or take home lunch, Monday through Friday 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Emergency food boxes: Pick up at Spartan Center 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or home delivery within 15 miles of the office.

Call to arrange food box pickup on the weekend.

Grocery buying assistance is available.

Address: 131 E. Elizabeth St, Pittsburgh, PA, 15207

Phone number (412) 499-4313

Ask for Dylan Knapp-Scott

### COVID-19 testing and vaccination

#### COVID-19 vaccinations

Rite-Aid

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

4934 Second Ave, Pittsburgh, PA, 15207

Phone: (412) 421-6948

Book an appointment if possible at <https://www.riteaid.com/locations/pa/pittsburgh/4934-second-avenue.html>

Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson available

#### COVID-19 testing and vaccination

Hazelwood Family Health Center

4918 2nd Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Phone: (641) 715-3900 Extension: 301402

Call for appointment

Call now for your booster shot if you have a weakened immune system due to cancer, solid organ transplant, steroid treatment or **other cause.**

**Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson available**

### Housing and utilities

#### Action Housing: Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Visit: <https://Covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us>

Call: (412) 248-0021

Email: [rentalassistance@actionhousing.org](mailto:rentalassistance@actionhousing.org)

#### PWSA relief application:

Apply at <https://www.pgh2o.com/residential-commercial-customers/customer-assistance-programs>

Call: Dollar Energy Fund at (866) 762-2348

#### Free housing legal services for renters and homeowners

Tenant Services

- Mediation: Third party trained mediators facilitate a resolution between landlord and tenant issues.

- Limited Legal Consultation: Attorneys provide limited and brief legal advice related to tenant issues and provide information on options, rights and responsibilities.

- Full Legal Representation: Attorneys provide representation through court proceedings to help prevent evictions and stabilize housing.

Homeowner Services

- Tangled Title: Legal assistance to help transfer the home's record title to the current occupant.

- Foreclosure Prevention: Assistance to help prevent foreclosure by helping to explore options such as repayment plans, forbearance and deferrals, mortgage modifications, refinancing and/or bankruptcy.

For a Legal Assistance Program referral call: 412-534-6600

Non-English speakers please call: 412-530-5244

### Hotlines, alerts, and general information

Allegheny County Health Dept.

24/7 hotline:

888-856-2774

Phone Alerts:

[www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts)

**General Information & Assistance:**

Call 2-1-1

OR text your zip code to 898-211

OR visit [PA211sw.org](http://PA211sw.org)

**Center of Life**

**Covid-19 Online Resource Guide**

[centeroflifeonline.net/covid](http://centeroflifeonline.net/covid)

**Hazelwood Initiative Community Updates**

[facebook.com/hazelwoodinitiative](https://facebook.com/hazelwoodinitiative)

**Praise Temple Community**

**Hotline**

\* Answering M-F,

10am-2pm

412-422-1983

**Resolve Crisis Services**

(888) 796-8226

Mental health crisis support

### Churches and houses of worship

#### First Hungarian Reformed Church of Pittsburgh

221 Johnston Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207

412-421-0279

#### Fountain of Life Church

247 Johnston Ave Pittsburgh, 15207

412-422-8794

[www.fountainofflifepgh.co](http://www.fountainofflifepgh.co)

#### Holy Angels Church

408 Baldwin Road Pittsburgh, 15207

412-461-6906, <https://www.facebook.com/holyangelshays/>

#### Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel

5319 Second Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207

412-521-0844

[www.holycrosspgh.info](http://www.holycrosspgh.info)

#### Keystone Church of Hazelwood

161 Hazelwood Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207, 412-521-3468

<https://www.centerofflife.net/>

#### Mary S. Brown-Ames United Methodist Church

Meeting at: 515 West 8th Avenue

Homestead, PA 15120, 412-421-4431

[info@brightredfence.org](mailto:info@brightredfence.org)

[www.brightredfence.org](http://www.brightredfence.org)

#### Praise Temple Deliverance Church

Pastor Lutual M. Love, Sr.

5400 Glenwood Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207, 412-277-0113

#### Saint John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church

506 Saline Street Pittsburgh, 15207

[pastor@sjbcc.com](mailto:pastor@sjbcc.com)

<https://sjbcc.com/>

#### Saint John the Evangelist Baptist

4537 Chatsworth Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207, 412-626-3232

[info@stjohnpgh.org](mailto:info@stjohnpgh.org)

[www.stjohnpgh.org](http://www.stjohnpgh.org)

#### Saint Rosalia Catholic Church

411 Greenfield Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207 412-421-5766

[info@saintpaulcathedral.org](mailto:info@saintpaulcathedral.org)

[www.ghocatholics.org](http://www.ghocatholics.org)

#### Saint Stephen Catholic Church

5115 Second Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207

(412) 621-4951

[info@saintpaulcathedral.org](mailto:info@saintpaulcathedral.org)

[www.ghocatholics.org](http://www.ghocatholics.org)

#### Squirrel Hill Christian Church

290 Bigelow Street Pittsburgh, 15207

412-521-2447

#### Steel City Church

290 Bigelow Street Pittsburgh, 15207

(412) 342-8387

[info@thesteelcitychurch.com](mailto:info@thesteelcitychurch.com)

[www.thesteelcitychurch.com](http://www.thesteelcitychurch.com)

#### Warriors of Holiness in Power

(A Full Gospel church)

1174 Mifflin Road Pittsburgh, 15207

412-461-5572

[whipwarriors@gmail.com](mailto:whipwarriors@gmail.com)

[www.whipministries.org](http://www.whipministries.org)

#### Contact Hazelwood Initiative for help with rental assistance applications

Contact Tiffany Taulton, Director of Community Initiatives, at Hazelwood Initiative for help applying for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program [ERAP].

Mobile phone: 412-392-7427

[ttaulton@hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:ttaulton@hazelwoodinitiative.org)

#### Medical Devices Lending Library - Beth Shalom

Walkers, wheelchairs and canes available for short- or long-term loan to residents of Greenfield, Hazelwood, Squirrel Hill and Homestead. Local delivery available.

To request an item, contact Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman at [mgoodman@bethshalompgh.org](mailto:mgoodman@bethshalompgh.org) or 412-421-2288

See [bethshalompgh.org/medicaldevices/](http://bethshalompgh.org/medicaldevices/) for more information.

#### Emergency broadband assistance

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

Apply online: <https://getemergencybroadband.org/>

For help applying or more information, call (833) 511-0311 between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

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



Meeting First and Third Wednesdays at 6:30 PM  
First Hungarian Church - Calvin Hall  
217 Johnston Avenue

Any questions contact Cindy 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.

# GARDEN AND SUSTAINABILITY

## Oats win staring contest: An experiment with oats as a fall cover crop

By Matt Peters, Community Garden Manager

To the best of my knowledge, no one has ever won a staring contest with a bowl of oatmeal. This year I upped the game, and watched oats grow from seed to seed in our commons bed at the Community Garden on Monongahela Street.

### The Experiment

I planted oats and field peas mixed together as a cover crop on the first of August. My plans included a vague notion of mowing it at the peak of biomass production, before it started putting up seed-heads or even making the high-carbon straw, to create a layer of natural mulch and feed the soil for next year. But the fall weather was so warm and mild, and the oats looked so healthy and vigorous, that I let it keep growing, watching the plant change from leaf-growing mode to seed-head-growing mode.

### Hardier than expected

When frosts finally arrived in late November, I thought the cold nights would kill the above-ground parts.

But the oats kept right on growing and the light frosts only served to stimulate sugar production in the plant tissues, a natural antifreeze. It was a rare taste treat to bite down on an unripe oat groat, still in the “milk” stage, and I would stop by the garden every few days to check on their progress.

Finally, the stand started to turn golden, the seed kernels started to firm up, and I decided it was time to harvest my crop. It was a simple task

*Finally, the stand started to turn golden, the seed kernels started to firm up, and I decided it was time to harvest my crop.*

to strip the seeds right off the stalks by hand, and as luck would have it, Valerie happened to stop by just as I was getting started. She generously offered to spend a few minutes helping! We soon had maybe five or six

quarts of oats in their green hulls, and we probably dropped almost that much during our collecting.

### The Three Sisters: corn, beans and squash

This side of the Community Garden has long been a place for larger-scale growing projects such as a Three Sisters bed. Corn, beans, and squash are grown together as a polyculture, a balanced system of food production developed over centuries by Native Americans. When done properly, this approach nourishes the soil and increases fertility over time, as well as providing a complete nutritional profile.

Modern agricultural methods of corn production are focused on vast monocultures which leave the soil impoverished. Farmers must either use petrochemical fertilizers, add manure, or rotate to a crop that recharges the soil, such as beans. Beans are a legume, which means they can pull nitrogen from the atmosphere, and with the help of soil bacteria, make this nitrogen available to other plants as a nutrient.

When the three sisters are planted together, the corn stalks support the twining vines of the bean plants, and squash plants contribute large, shady leaves that keep weeds down, as well as delicious fall produce.

### Return of the sisters in 2022

The last couple of years of experimenting with the Three Sisters model has resulted in a crop yielding mostly corn, a few squash plants, and rabbits grown fat on a diet of tender young bean plants. This means the soil hasn't really been benefiting from the nitrogen enriching ability that beans bring to the system. I hoped to remedy this with a rotation of oats and field peas, and I am looking forward to seeing the results of my experiment when we till the soil this coming spring.

With the Three Rivers Village School soon to move in to the vacant YMCA building, we look forward to holding more programs with neighborhood children. Look for a series of workshops in the 2022 spring and summer growing season, open to the public and free of charge!



Clockwise from left: Oat seed heads in the early November sun. Valerie Morgan harvests oats with her bare hands. Matt Peters holds a bucket with about a gallon and a half of harvested oats. A view of the Community Garden behind the former YMCA, shortly after the oats were harvested and scythed. The quart each of peas and oats from Grow Pittsburgh's Garden Research Center that were planted in the Y garden as a cover crop experiment. Photos by Matt Peters



# TRANSPORTATION

## Irvine

- Continued from Front Page

popular Mon-Oakland Connector [MOC].

“\$12 million is a lot of money and it’s just sitting there in DOMI’s coffers,” Ms. Warwick said, referring to the estimated MOC budget. “Now that everyone is finally acknowledging how misguided DOMI’s plan to build a shuttle road through Schenley Park really was, we can start using that money for mobility improvements the people of Pittsburgh actually need.”

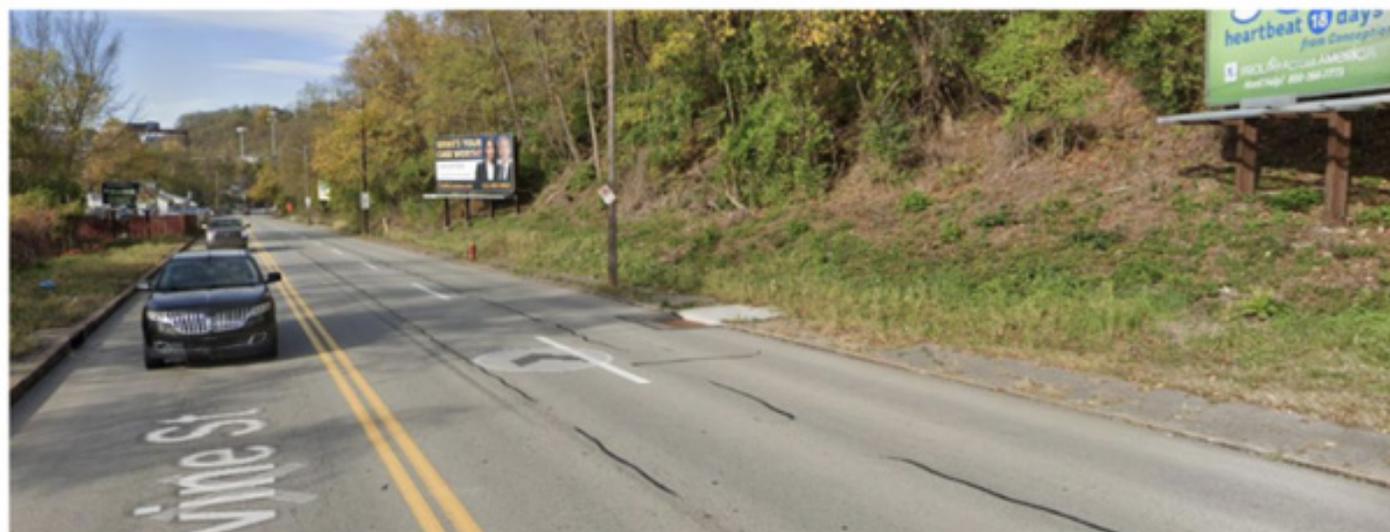
Regarding the MOC budget, Mr. Setzler said, “I am seeing about \$8 million [of City funds], not counting anything from PWSA [Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority].” He mentioned the \$4 million difference had been redirected in the 2021 budget through an amendment introduced by District 5 Councilman Corey O’Connor. PWSA has a budget of more than \$42 million to complete a stormwater project on the same land as the MOC.

The MOC, slated to be put on hold by incoming Pittsburgh mayor Ed Gainey, proposed connecting Oakland university campuses and the Hazelwood Green development through the park’s Junction Hollow section and two adjacent neighborhoods—The Run and Panther Hollow. Affected communities including The Run, Panther Hollow, Greenfield, South Oakland, and Hazelwood created their own plan for how MOC funds should be spent instead: Our Money, Our Solutions.

The ARP funding arises from controversy as well. When it was announced in July 2021, Mayor Bill Peduto drew criticism from constituents who said he needlessly rushed to set a major spending agenda that prioritized infrastructure above mitigating COVID-19-related harms, such as evictions.

“This is an important corridor for all modes of transportation,” said Anna Tang, a community organizer around bike transit issues. “It seems like the most vulnerable users are almost always last to get the infrastructure attention they need. [The sidewalk repairs] couldn’t come soon enough.”

Although several Hazelwood, Greenfield and Four Mile Run residents commented on the project webpage, Mr. Setzler said the feed-



Irvine Street, Google Street View (2020)

Resurfacing has brought the street almost to the level of the curb, and soil has washed onto the sidewalks on Irvine Avenue. Photos courtesy of DOMI project fact sheet.

back stage of design has passed. Other city departments have been sharing their projects and receiving community input on Engage PGH for longer.

“DOMI is catching up,” Mr. Setzler said. “Going forward, [Engage PGH] will be our main source for sharing project information. In general, projects will still have outreach to community groups and [virtual or in-person] public meetings.”

View the updated fact sheet and a new “virtual public plans display” at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/irvine-street-sidewalk-gaps>. The display features maps and a project schedule that projects construction will take seven months. In addition, a new feedback form was placed on the page above the existing 140-character comment field. You can also create an Engage PGH account to receive email alerts about upcoming projects.

*Junction Coalition is a grassroots community organization that began in The Run. [www.junctioncoalition.org](http://www.junctioncoalition.org)*

**30 million adults suffer from thyroid imbalance. Don't let dysfunction go undiagnosed.**



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## TRANSPORTATION

# Advocates challenge Mayor-elect Gainey to focus on transit in first 100 days in office



A Port Authority Transit bus on Greenfield Avenue between Second and Irvine. Photo courtesy of Pittsburghers for Public Transit

By Juliet Martinez

A transit group has challenged Mayor-elect Ed Gainey to make Pittsburgh fairer and more accessible in his first 100 days. The Pittsburgh 100 Days Transit Platform sets ambitious goals for the incoming administration.

Pittsburghers for Public Transportation [PPT] created the platform with input from groups and individuals affected by transit inequity and lack of access. The 18-page document focuses on transit, land use, housing and infrastructure. It names four goals and 18 specific policy proposals. PPT released it on December 16 in anticipation of Gainey's swearing into office on January 3.

Even though the Port Authority is a county agency, PPT made the case that Pittsburgh's mayor can do a lot to promote better transit policies, stating, "Local transit initiatives have the power to map Pittsburgh's future cityscape while also improving housing equity and creating economic growth for all residents."

**Goal 1. Prioritization of accessible, fair mobility over corporate profit and private modes of transportation.** Policy proposals include:

- A walking/transit/biking first approach to mobility
- Setting clear mobility goals
- A cabinet-level mobility position
- Full funding for the Departments of Mobility Infrastructure and City Planning

**Goal 2. Legislation and zoning that supports transit use and affordable housing.** Policy proposals include:

- Free bus passes for city employees and residents of city shelters
- A citywide inclusionary zoning ordinance
- Fewer or no parking minimums in the zoning code
- More affordability and density of development near main transit routes
- Auditing private companies' access to and use of mobility data

**Goal 3. Comfortable, accessible, and safe public transit connections.** Policy proposals include:

- Compensating people with disabilities for participating in infrastructure planning
- Establishment of a sidewalk fund
- Making sidewalk access and maintenance a priority
- Moving unused bus shelters to priority stops
- Budget for snow removal equipment
- The creation of a sidewalk program at DOMI with a designated leader

**Goal 4. Bus lanes and transit signal priority to ensure fast, effective public transit.** This goal emphasizes giving buses priority over cars. This can happen through:

- Bus-only lanes, and peak-only bus lanes in some tight spaces such as Carson Street and Butler Street
- Transit signal priority
- Sheltered stops on sidewalk bump outs

- Placement of bus stops beyond traffic signals
- Enforcement of bus stop and bus lane traffic

More than 27 organizations made statements supporting the platform. The Hill District Consensus Group focuses on building the leadership of residents of the Hill District. Director Carol Hardeman said, "There is a shortage of over 20,000 affordable homes in Pittsburgh.... We need our city to plan for affordable housing and safe access to quality public transit to be located together."

Five city council members support the program. Erika Strassburger said improving transit routes and adding more buses is important, but it is not enough. "Investing in our transportation infrastructure... also means maintaining our sidewalks in all of our communities and identifying potential locations near excellent transit access for workforce and affordable housing."

Read the full platform document at <https://www.pittsburghforpublictransit.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PPT-100-Days-Transit-Platform.pdf>

## Research for Equity and Power promotes equitable development

By Andre Green

The Research for Equity and Power [REP] project invites youth and adults to participate in a series of eight in-person Community Conversations starting in February 2022. Conversations will focus on fostering civic engagement around equitable development in Hazelwood. Space is limited to 30 participants. Food will be served and participants will be paid for attending the Community Conversations and completing surveys.

Following the Community Conversations, REP will work with residents to create a Hazelwood Equitable Development Playbook that will be shared with the community, including holding a Citizen Training Academy. A virtual information session about the REP project and the Community Conversations will take place on January 19th, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Please scan the QR code to get more information and register for the virtual information session on January 19th.

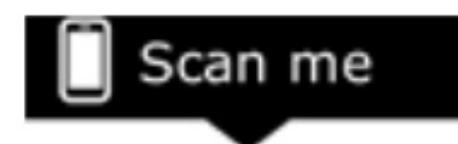
The goal of the REP project is to increase civic engagement in Hazelwood around equitable development and aligns with the development goals of the Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan to prevent displacement and promote revitalization that benefits current residents.

**Interested in getting involved?** Please contact: Andre Green at Pitt at [atg43@pitt.edu](mailto:atg43@pitt.edu); Hazelwood Initiative (ask for Tiffany Taulton or Antonetta Avila) at 412-421-7234;

or DaVonne Fuller at Center of Life at [davonne.fuller@centeroflife.net](mailto:davonne.fuller@centeroflife.net)

REP is a collaboration between Homewood Children's Village, the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, Hazelwood Initiative and Center of Life. This project is also supported by Pitt's Community Engagement Center Initiative and is funded by AmeriCorps.

The project is informed by a Hazelwood Community Advisory Board made up of residents and key stakeholders who care about positive neighborhood change and want to play a pivotal role in guiding our project. The Community Advisory Board provides important guidance, including identifying Hazelwood-specific issues related to preventing displacement and promoting revitalization that benefits current residents.



Sign up via QR code

## HEALTH

# Forever chemicals: How to avoid them and why PA wants to limit them

By Juliet Martinez

It sounds like a teaser from the evening news. "Something invisible and odorless in your kitchen could be making you sick. Tune in at 10 for more information!"

But in truth, toxic substances nicknamed "forever chemicals" are in most kitchens. They may even be in our water. And yes, they can make us sick. These manufacturing chemicals belong to a group called PFAS (say pee-fahs). The full name for this group is perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

In November, the Wolf administration took steps toward limiting how much PFAS can be in public drinking water. The Environmental Protection Agency says 70 parts per trillion is a safe level. But scientists and states that regulate PFAS say the level should be much lower. Scientists who found PFAS harms children's immune systems recommend no more than 0.03 parts per trillion.

PFAS do not break down. Period. They are in many products, including nonstick cookware, fast food wrappers, carpets and firefighting foam. While you can avoid the first three, if your house is on fire, you can't avoid the fourth.

Exposure to PFAS may cause health problems, like cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis and low birth weights. In essence, the more PFAS exposure people have, the more they suffer from these conditions.

Last June, the Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] tested drinking water in 400 places around the state. They found that

about a third of the sites had PFAS contamination. Most of them were in the eastern part of the state near military bases. In these locations, firefighting foam had leached into groundwater. In July, firefighting foam contaminated the water supply in McKeesport. Residents had to stop using public water for drinking, cooking or bathing. It took a month to flush all the PFAS out of the system and restore safe public water to all residents.

The DEP has said it means to put limits on PFAS in place for Pennsylvania since 2017. The proposed rule limiting PFAS in drinking water may take months for full approval. The level may be up to 200 times higher than scientists recommend.

## THE LOWDOWN ON "FOREVER CHEMICALS"

PFAS include more than 4700 synthetic chemicals used around the world. They have become low-level pollutants in our food, water and bodies.

### 70 PARTS PER TRILLION

The EPA says this incredibly tiny amount of PFAS is safe to drink. Scientists disagree, saying the safe level is much, much lower.

### WHAT DO PFAS DO?

- Disrupt hormones, fertility and how a fetus in the womb develops
- Affect children's immune systems, making vaccines less effective
- Promote kidney and testicular cancers

Source: <https://chemtrust.org/pfas/>

### 1 PART PER TRILLION

The Environmental Working Group health guideline says only 1 ppt is safe in water.

### WHERE DO PFAS COME FROM?

Sources include:

- Nonstick cookware
- Fast food packaging
- Carpets
- Firefighting foam

### WHAT CAN I DO?

- Use an activated charcoal filter for your drinking water
- Avoid non-stick cookware
- Eat more home-cooked meals and less takeout
- Check textiles for PFAS- or PFC-free labels
- Buy cosmetics without "fluoro" or PTFE in any of the ingredients
- Visit <https://chemtrust.org/pfas/> for more information

## 100 million AMERICANS

A 2018 Environmental Working Group report said up to 100 million Americans may be drinking, cooking and bathing with water contaminated by PFAS.

Image by Juliet Martinez

## ADVERTORIAL

## Thyroid Hormone: A Crucial Metabolic Player

By Susan Merenstein

The average person who can't lose weight – despite eating right and exercising – is generally frustrated and frankly stumped.

For many, diet and exercise have generally proven effective, and yet now – for some reason – they don't. Sometimes just a little. Sometimes not at all.

Those who dig deeper often find that weight problems could be due to a sluggish thyroid. Feeling an inkling of hope, many ask their doctors to run a test, and lo' and behold the results often come back normal. How can this be?

These results tend to stun – especially when weight gain continues to be an issue and/or we suffer from other hypothyroidism hallmarks – feeling cold, old, thinning hair, stressed and depressed.

Given that so many symptoms of low thyroid overlap with other hormone imbalances, we may not get the answers needed unless we find a healthcare provider who goes beyond the standard TSH test to address thyroid disorders in the broader context of hormone imbalance.

Our bodies produce more than one thyroid hormone. The most abundant is thyroxine (T4), which is an INACTIVE THYROID HORMONE converts to triiodothyronine (T3), the ACTIVE THYROID HORMONE in the body. We need our bodies to make plenty of these two hormones since we rely heavily on them for an active metabolism.

So, one clarifying answer to the original question about that so-called "normal" test result is that testing TSH alone is not going to give us the whole story because it fails to take active thyroid levels into account.

TSH was created as a SCREENING TOOL, NOT A THERAPY MONITORING TOOL! Nor can a single thyroid test identify imbalances of the steroid or adrenal hormones that serve to seriously inhibit thyroid function.

Discovering how well our thyroid is working requires a bigger-picture assessment of all the hormone levels that matter, not just TSH, T3, and T4, but estrogen, progesterone, testosterone, DHEA and cortisol.

It should also include an assessment of iodine, zinc, selenium and other mineral levels that if out of balance can run interference on thyroid hormone production. That's because when it comes to a healthy thyroid, the efficient conversion of T4 to T3 is imperative – must occur – if we want an active vs. sluggish metabolism. So, anything that interferes with that crucial conversion process will decrease thyroid function (most antidepressants, Vitamin B, D, E, and A deficiencies and 28 more factors), slow metabolism (which makes weight loss even harder), and trigger a plethora of low thyroid symptoms.

From hormone imbalances to mineral deficiencies and environmental pollutants, several factors can affect thyroid production and testing can help identify the worst culprits. \*

Estrogen dominance – Thyroid problems are far more prevalent in women, particularly those in the menopause transition. That's because "estrogen dominance" has the effect of binding up active thyroid hormones on their way to the cells that need them, so it may not necessarily be a failing thyroid gland that is the issue, your thyroid may be working just fine but is encountering the estrogen roadblock!

Other factors affecting T4 to Active T3 conversion are:

Elevated or depleted cortisol stress hormones Iodine deficiency Selenium and zinc deficiency Vitamin D deficiency Arsenic or mercury toxicity Xenoestrogen burden – environmental chemicals that effectively disrupt estrogen metabolism

Get the whole (holistic) picture and make sure hormone imbalances are corrected before embarking on your weight loss journey. We can help! Make sure your foundational health is strong including hormones, vitamins and minerals. You'll be surprised how much easier you lose weight.

To Your Health,

*Susan*

Susan Merenstein  
Vital Health Pharmacist  
Owner Murray Avenue Apothecary

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

Lincoln Place • Gates Manor  
Hays • New Homestead



## 31st Ward CAG Corner

Join the 31st Ward Community Action Group 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.

Meeting location: 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!

## 31st Ward Flag Fund

Your donation will help our volunteers to install and maintain American flags that line the streets of the 31st Ward. Please make checks payable to the **31st Ward Community Action Group** and mail to 944 Sunglow 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)



**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.

## Holiday fun in Lincoln Place brought out the kid in everyone

### 31st 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



# 31st Ward

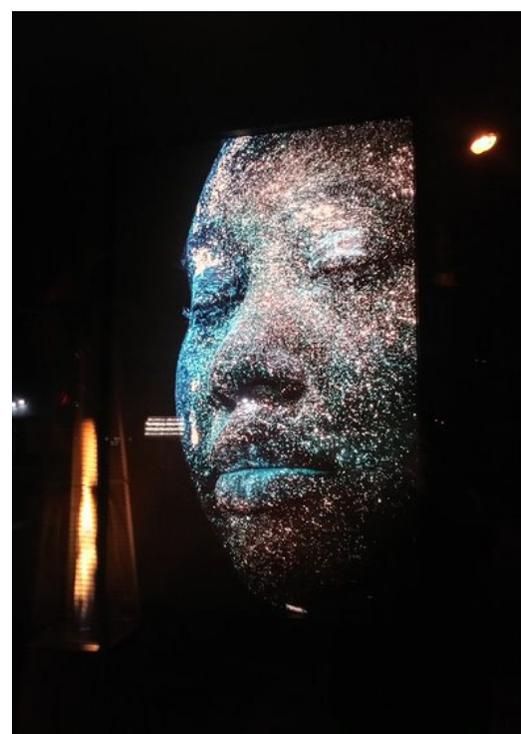


Opposite page and below: All aboard the Christmas Trolley! On December 4, Santa and his elves visited Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church to pick up families and take them caroling. The basement buzzed with crafts, games, cookies and holiday fun. Photos by Juliet Martinez

Above and the right side of page: The First Annual Holiday Parade brought out young and old in spite of the rain. Santa and Mrs. Claus, Girl and Boy Scouts, mounted police and even a power ranger showed up! Photos by Ryan Herbinko

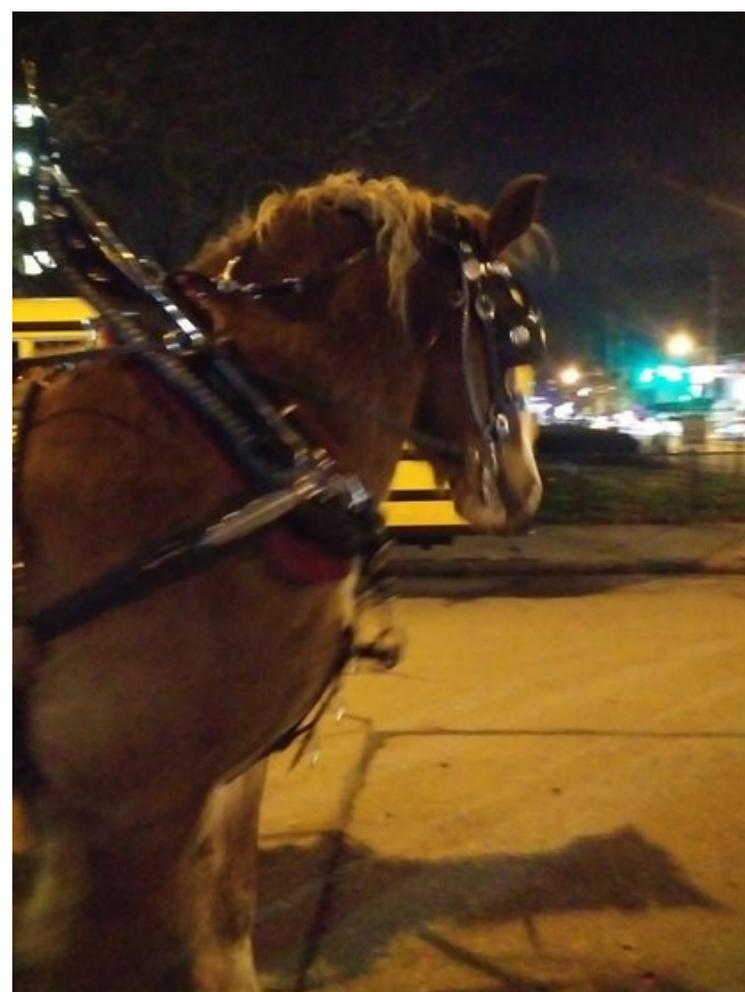


# FAMILIAR FACES

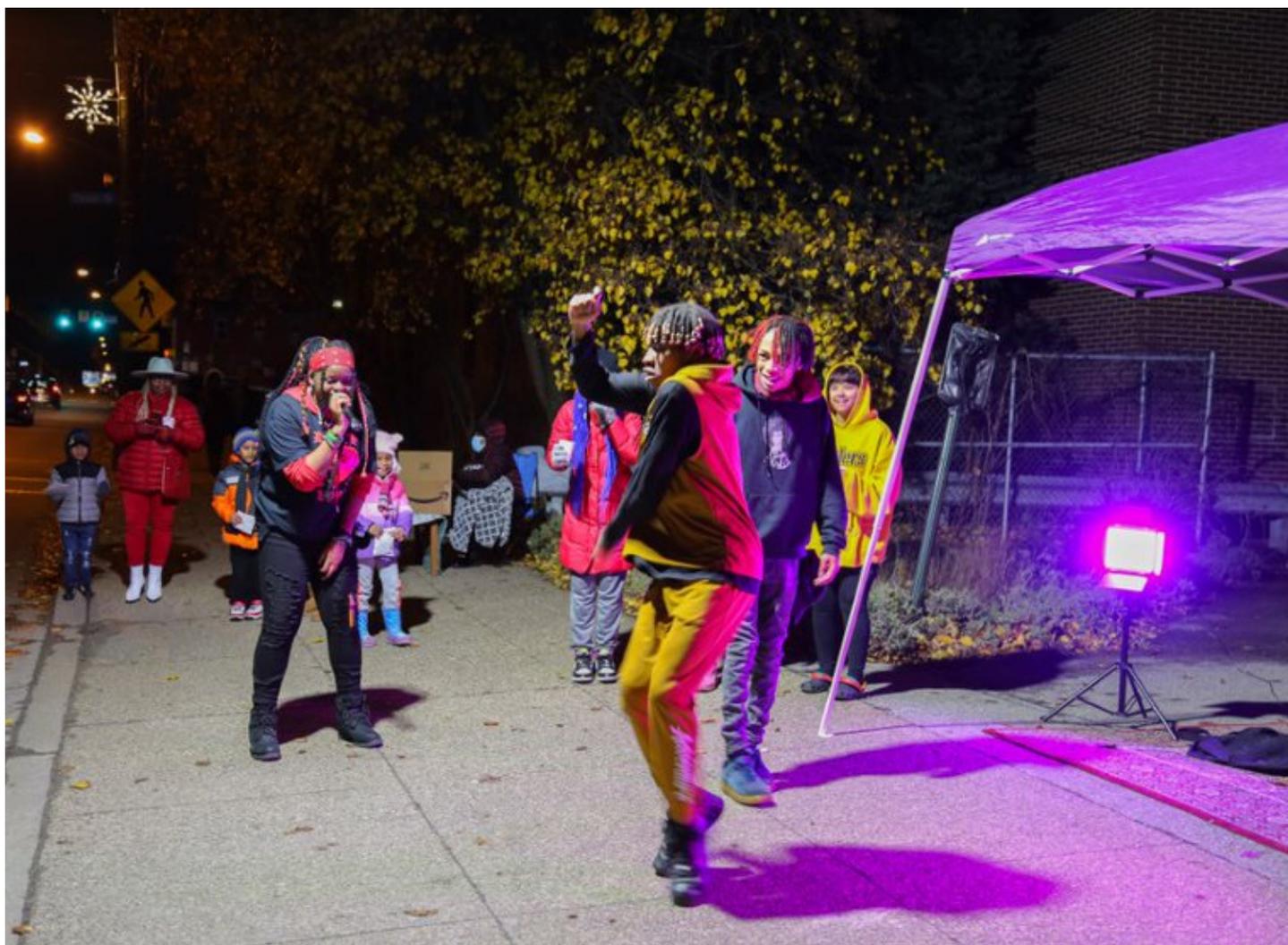
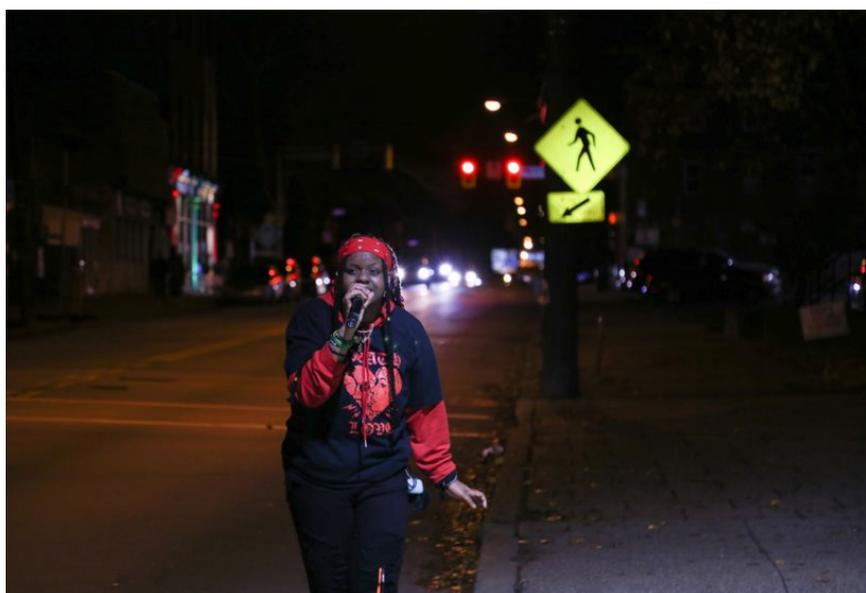


Clockwise from left: At Hazelwood Light Up Night on December 6, an image from *Eternal Essence*, by Mikael Owunna, sparkled in a window as part of Hazelwood Local's light and art installation, *Illumin-Ave*. Another installation, Alysha Wormsley's, *There Are Black People in the Future*, showed historic photos of Hazelwood in the upper windows of the Hazelwood Initiative [HI] offices (photo by Hank Malone). A magical child transformed into a bouquet of flowers, and a tyke into a tiger. The horses waited to pull the wagon of delighted kids and families. HI program assistant and Homepage staffer, Sarah Kanar, amazed with her balloon twisting skills. The Allderdice High School marching band made the event especially lively.

Photos by Juliet Martinez



# FAMILIAR FACES



These talented young neighbors amazed the community with their rapping and dancing skills at Hazelwood Light Up Night on December 6, performing in the Carnegie Library Hazelwood lot. The KRUNK Movement program of Center of Life is a youth production company for students in grades 9-12 focusing on the elements of hip-hop through dance, song production, and visual art. For more information, call (412)521-3468 or email [luc.mickens@centeroflife.net](mailto:luc.mickens@centeroflife.net) to schedule an audition. Photos by Bailey McGrady

# FAMILIAR FACES



From tiny kids to teens and adults, everyone loved meeting Tiana, Elsa and Black Panther at Hazelwood Light Up Night on December 6. The three popular characters came to life, bringing excitement and delight to the indoor part of the festivities in the Hazelwood Initiative offices. To invite them to your special event, visit <https://www.pittsburghprincess.com>. Photos by Courtney Lynn, Fairytale Princess Visits, and Juliet Martinez



# SCHOOL UPDATES

## Happy memories at the Spartan Center

By TRVS Staff

As we say goodbye to 2021 and prepare to move into the former YMCA building on Chatsworth, Three Rivers Village School [TRVS] would like to reflect on our time at the Spartan Center.

TRVS moved here in 2015 before the Spartan Community Center of Hazelwood [SCCH] formed, back when Deacon Tom Berna was the de facto manager of the mostly empty former St. Stephens Catholic School building. We had planned to move to Millvale, but zoning exemptions and renovation challenges prevented that late in the summer. We were scrambling to find a suitable spot.

It turned out that space at St. Stephens could fit our little school. We're so grateful that things turned out the way they did and we found ourselves in Hazelwood. With just a couple of weeks to plan and move, we settled into the space. We filled the big classrooms as best as we could with art supplies, a mini kitchen, computers, couches and tables for doing all kinds of activities. At first, every room served lots of purposes. Only the playroom and library had their own space.

Over the years of constantly shifting student interests, every room has been repurposed several times. Art, music, science and school meetings each eventually carved out their own dedicated spaces. Activities that require full use of a space or special equipment usually have to be democratically approved by our School Meeting. Other changes of furniture, purpose, or arrangement are open for students or staff to make as often as needs require.

Many of our favorite memories from 134 East Elizabeth Street happened in the ground floor hall. Every February, our families would convene there on a chilly evening and bring ingredients to make a whole slew of pizzas in the kitchen. We would eat pizza and play board games. One year, we hosted a marching band, clowns and were proud to bring Raising Free People Network co-founder, Akilah S. Richards, up from Atlanta to speak about Self Directed Education. Many of those events were student-initiated. It's amazing to see the creative, fun, and

interesting things students come up with for these events.

One of the special things about our school and the freedom our kids enjoy is that new traditions are created every year, by and for students. These traditions slowly evolve over the years as students remember and anticipate other groups and other times doing the same things, in the same way our school space and our school culture has evolved over the years. It is said that the only constant is change. Students and staff at TRVS embrace that adage.

Thanks to SCCH, St Stephen's, Deacon Tom and everyone else in Hazelwood for your support here over the years. From all of us at TRVS, we hope you have a wonderful 2022!

### NEED HELP FINDING A JOB?

Businesses desperately need workers. But how do you find the right job? PublicSource asked local experts on job searching for resources and advice.

Read more online at: <https://tinyurl.com/pgh-job-search-tips>

### GET HELP KEEPING YOUR HOUSE WARM

Action Housing and Duquesne Light have partnered to help people weatherize their homes.

**Who is eligible?** Low- and fixed-income households

**How do I apply?** Call Action Housing at 412-281-2102 (ext.2101).

**Note:** Renters must get their landlord's permission before making changes in their home.



Fond memories of good times at the Spartan Center. Above: The Family Circus, in 2017, included a marching band and clowns Photo by Maren Cooke.

Right: A Make A Pizza Party in 2019. Photo by Maggie Bogdanich



Meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month!

## GREATER HAZELWOOD

# VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday  
Jan. 11th  
6pm - 8pm

### TOPICS & SPEAKERS

- **Hazelwood Local Updates** - Dana Wall, Street Plans
- **Hazelwood Construction Projects, Workforce Training Opportunities** - Speaker TBD
- **What City Park designation means for the Hazelwood Greenway** - Rebecca Kiernan, Senior Resilience Planner at the Dept. of City Planning
- **Air Quality Monitors Update** - Abhishek Viswanathan, PittSensing
- **Hazelwood Initiative Updates**
- **Community Announcements**

**Register in advance for this meeting:**  
<https://bit.ly/2SwPr9k>  
 CALL IN TO LISTEN: (646) 558-8656  
 Meeting ID: 853 9182 9343 Passcode: 796212

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

# Industrial Arts Workshop afterschool welding program resumes February 1

By Juliet Martinez

The Industrial Arts Workshop free afterschool program last fall engaged teens in learning about design, metalworking and being part of a community. The spring program starts February 1. The students spoke with The Homepage about the class and described their experiences.



Sparks fly during a demonstration of plasma cutting, which uses compressed air and an electric arc to cut metal. Photo by Murphy Moschetta

Josiah Hartley, left, wearing a welding mask – age 14

"I did the summer program and I wanted to come back. I love the program and the community. It's really fun helping out. It was first design, focusing on, like, the design process and how to come up with a basic design. And then we got into industrial skills like torch cutting and welding and... I really enjoyed it a lot. I make my own projects and I come here whenever I can help."

Gabriel Robinson, left, wearing a green cloth face mask – age 16

"This is like working with metal, seeing what you can make out of it. You can cut it and stuff, put things together. I thought it would be a good experience learning to do this type of thing, because it's something new."

Photo by Juliet Martinez

**For more information on Industrial Arts Workshop and to apply for the spring session, go to <https://iawpgh.org/>.**



Photo by Juliet Martinez

Elena Wurzel, age 16, holds their sketch for a welding project.

"The teachers are really great. They're super nice and helpful. I had to miss a few days because I was out of town, and they let me come in... an hour early and caught me up on things. It's all around really great and I have a lot of friends here."



Photo by Murphy Moschetta

Max Holby, age 14, talks with a fellow student.

"We've learned MIG welding and stick welding, and so I've welded a couple things together, like making projects. One of them was a small little rocket using the stuff that they give us, and then I was working on a sort of dragon thing. I could do it as a career choice because there's this program that I'm doing and my school has a [vocational training] program."

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Community Kitchen Pittsburgh's Bowls and Boards event was a success

By Bailyn Brink

On December 9, Community Kitchen Pittsburgh [CKPgh] joyfully welcomed community members back into our space. In collaboration with Contemporary Craft, CKPgh was honored to host Bowls and Boards, featuring the sale of ceramic prep bowls created by Texas artist George Bowes and 10 other nationally-recognized ceramicists.

At Bowls and Boards, beautiful, handmade prep bowls were on display and for sale to anyone who fell in love with them. All of the ceramics were created for a Contemporary Craft exhibit called Prepping Pittsburgh: Art Sustaining Community that debuted in August of 2021. Each of the 327 prep bowls represented a CKPgh graduate. George Bowes' bowls became a favorite among our attendees, with a total of 12 of his pieces finding new homes. Overall, the community filled the space and

purchased 56 of these bowls, generating over \$3,000 that will benefit not only our students at CKPgh, but the artists that created these bowls, and other artists working with Contemporary Craft.

During the past year, with the worldwide pandemic and all of its challenges, CKPgh was unable to host events for those who we may not see in our community every day. Our entire team agrees it has been far too long and we were thrilled to once again have our first floor filled with laughter, celebration, and, of course, food.

There is only one thing that CKPgh can say, and that is thank you. Thank you to all of those who attended our event, joining us once again in our space to celebrate the work of CKP students. We cannot express how grateful we are that we get to be a part of such a generous community that is constantly working to support one another.



Photo courtesy of Erika Johnson

## Ask E: Allow me to introduce myself

By Erika Johnson

We all have phases in life where we need advice. The young can surprise the old with wisdom that breathes a fresh perspective and the old can share jewels of knowledge far beyond the years of their younger counterparts.

Then there is me, Erika. A young woman somewhere in between. So, allow me to introduce myself before I go any further soliciting questions

to give advice to.

I go by E, love exploring the world, have lived abroad in Spain as an English teacher & Sí, I'm always looking for someone to speak Spanish with. After receiving my bachelor's degree in Biology from Cheyney University, I realized the medical field wasn't the best fit for me & after doing some introspective work, I have since then found myself in the arena of youth development & have been working in various organizations like the SCA, Small Seeds & Gwen's Girls. I own a company offering creative & motivational products for young girls & I love speaking, writing & creating music to encourage others. I'm also an avid jazz & poetry lover.

Ok, Let's cut to the chase. Whether you are wondering what decision to make regarding a job, have a personal life question, need advice on property ownership - which I have recently experienced - or want to know how to create boundaries for a happier life, I'm your girl. Just send your questions to [Editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:Editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org) and I will answer them in the paper. All entries will be printed without using your name, so don't worry. Your privacy is important.

I can't promise a perfect answer, but I will do my best to help pull out the positive aspects & encourage you on your journey that is full of life's questions whether big or small. If there is one thing that I've learned, it's that all of our experiences are not just for ourselves. They are meant for sharing with the next person who may need a push or a reminder that there is someone else rooting for their growth & success. I'm here to share as much as I can and can't wait to hear what you all will share with these questions.



The beautiful handcrafted bowls seen here each represent a CKPgh graduate. Photo by Heather Mull

# HOUSING

## Housing

- Continued from Front Page individuals with a criminal record.

Sen. Saval proposed blocking landlords from running criminal background checks on prospective tenants. This would make it easier for ex-convicts to find housing and make a new start.

The Sentencing Project [TSP] data says as many as one in three adults in the United States has a criminal record. Black men are six times more likely to be arrested than white men. Hispanic or Latino men are two and a half times more likely to be arrested than white men. The TSP website says finding housing and employment can be near impossible for those with a criminal history.

Another barrier renters may face is a past eviction filing. Landlords routinely screen applicants for eviction filings, and deny leases to applicants who have one on their record. But filings do not always lead to eviction. This means that even if a renter was not evicted, the filing alone makes it harder for them to find housing.

The Fair Records for Renters bill would seal eviction filing records unless and until the landlord wins the case. EvictionLab.org data shows that in 2016 fully two thirds of Pennsylvania eviction filings did not end in eviction. But even without an eviction, the filing itself stained the tenant's record. This law would make the records of litigation sealed to the public while the case is active. If the tenant is evicted, the records would become available to the public.

But most eviction filings do not end like that. The landlord may withdraw the complaint. The judge may rule for the tenant. Sometimes the two parties reach a settlement. In these cases, no record will remain to endanger the future housing prospects of the renter.

A third housing-related bill addresses home repairs for low-income renters and homeowners. Sen. Saval proposes creating a comprehensive home repair program for low-income households. This would enable people to stay in homes they can afford, reduce utility bills and stabilize communities.

Sen. Saval stated that 280,000 homes in Pennsylvania need significant repairs. Repairs to structural problems such as leaking roofs or windows are costly. Fixing systemic

issues like exposed wiring, plumbing problems or lack of heat can also be expensive. Households that cannot repair and maintain their home may lose their housing. This harms families and can destabilize a neighborhood. Homeowners who lose their home lose the chance to pass their largest asset to their children.

Local programs like this have produced unexpected rewards for low-income communities. The Journal of the American Medical Association published a study in July showing how this works. In Philadelphia neighborhoods where home repair grants helped fix up 13,600 houses, crime dropped by almost 22%. Researchers said this came from fixing internal and structural problems, not the external appearance. And it was a long-lasting effect that continued more than 10 years after the study ended.

Victor J. Reina is associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania and a co-author of the study. He told Bloomberg CityLab these repairs relieved people's fears of their roof collapsing on them or their home being condemned. "It's protecting people from inside their house," he said.

Another part of the bill would support people in workforce development programs. This would help train tradespeople to do the repairs. Workforce development programs also help people overcome barriers to employment.

### PENNSYLVANIA FAIR CHANCE HOUSING FACTS

**OVER 20,000**  
people in Pennsylvania are released from prison every year

**375,000**  
are either incarcerated or under some form of supervision.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Recently incarcerated people face an increased risk of housing insecurity & homelessness.

**WHERE CAN YOU FIND HELP?**  
Download the Pennsylvania Fair Chance Housing Toolkit at:

<https://www.rootandrebond.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PAFactSheet.pdf>

Source:  
<https://www.rootandrebond.org/>

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## Support Your Local businesses

- Abriola's Auto Parts.....(412) 421-8100
- Allegheny Fence.....(412) 421-6005
- Allen Demolition.....(412) 361-7500
- Automotive Medic.....(412) 422-2886
- Brad Rosen Landscaping.....(412) 421-4330
- Carpets & Things.....(412) 401-8049
- Christian Cleaning Services.....(412) 781-5989
- Colwell Automotive.....(412) 422-2658
- Combo Mini Mart.....(412) 462-1568
- Community Kitchen Pittsburgh.....(412) 246-4736
- Dylamato's Market.....(412) 521-1351
- Easy Does it Lawn Care.....(412) 708-3586
- Elevationz: MoNae's Hair Studio , Killa Kutz , New 2 You & The Diamond Room.....(412) 235-7033
- Elizabeth Pharmacy.....(412) 421-0114
- Elmer Herman Funeral Home.....(412) 521-2768
- Floriated Interpretations.....(412) 607-7886
- General Contractor - Mike Lignini.....(412) 600-1969
- Graphics 22 Signs, Inc.....(412) 422-1125
- Gray's Tidy Up Services.....(412) 819-5597
- Greenfield Jewelers.....(412) 904-3589
- Halbleib's Auto Body.....(412) 422-4665
- Hazelwood Family Health Center.....(412) 422-9420
- Inspirational Wear.....(412) 218-4782
- Italian Village Pizza.....(412) 521-1900
- Mark's Fantastic Photos.....(412) 403-9247
- MDT Home Remodeling & Repair.....(412) 467-9577
- Negril Curbside Food Truck.....(412) 437-8474
- Jimmy Cohen Plumbing, Heating and Mechanical..(412) 421-2208
- John D. O'Connor & Son Funeral Home.....(412) 521-8116
- Jozsa Corner Hungarian Restaurant.....(412) 422-1886
- K & M Clean Fix LLC (Handyman Services).....(937) 369-8364
- K & T Cleaning.....(412) 337-7903
- Key Bank .....(412) 422-7420
- Kruszka's Auto.....(412) 521-8911
- La Gourmandine.....(412) 291-8146
- Lytle Cafe.....(412) 421-4881
- Odell Minniefield Construction and Services.....(412) 421-6662
- Phyl's Cleaning and De'cor.....(412) 708-3586
- The Pittsburgh Stop.....(412) 969-7488
- Reed's Sweet Treats.....(412) 449-9338
- Renee' Roma Personal Training.....(412) 443-6957
- Rite Aid.....(412) 421-6948
- Smuts Brothers Debris Removal.....(412) 512-7739
- We Care Chiropractic.....(412)-521-8890
- Webster Electric.....(412)-290-1112
- 3C Signs..... (412) 462-2455

Want your business listed for FREE?  
Call 412-421-7234 or email [skanar@hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:skanar@hazelwoodinitiative.org)

# COMMUNITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## Plans for S&R Market site emphasize social connections and green space

By Juliet Martinez

A place where you can run into friends, a place for seniors and families, a green space you can walk to. These ideas emerged at the December 14 Hazelwood Initiative [HI] community meeting. Residents at the meeting gave more input on redeveloping the former S&R Market lot. Architect Kate Tunney presented six concepts for the site.

At the November 9 meeting, participants offered several ideas. Some suggested developing the site as a recreational public space. Others, a grocery store, or retail and service provider space. Some suggested a mixed development with housing and a combination of the other uses.

Ms. Tunney, a partner at Rothschild Doyno Collaborative, presented these project goals summarized from the previous meeting:

- To celebrate the spirit of Hazelwood and tie the business district together
- To create a space where neighborhood residents feel welcome,

connect and access facilities

- To draw people from other neighborhoods with a unique space for small businesses
- To improve the streetscape with lighting, safe crosswalks, benches and alternative transportation.

Ms. Tunney and colleague Eli Gutierrez described how residents often met by chance at S&R Market. This created more social connections. The concepts they presented emphasized the importance of this dynamic. The architects also noted that they included extra parking into the designs to support the planned grocery store on the opposite side of the 4800 block of Second Avenue.

Many participants said they liked the focus on a public space where seniors, families, and children in the daycare center can relax and play. Hazelwood Towers is across from the former S&R Market site. People observed that creating a welcoming green space there would benefit Tower residents. The Greenway is too far and difficult of a walk for most neighborhood seniors.



Many of the meeting participants liked this concept. It shows a building set back from the street with parking in the rear. Trees and plants at the curb would shield a wide pedestrian space. The structure could have doors on four sides to welcome neighbors coming in from all directions. The open area would have benches and allow space for pop-up pavilions and outdoor dining.

Image courtesy of Rothschild Doyno Collaborative

### STR8TS SUDOKU

**Tough**

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				3			
				7			
4				6		1	

**Easy**

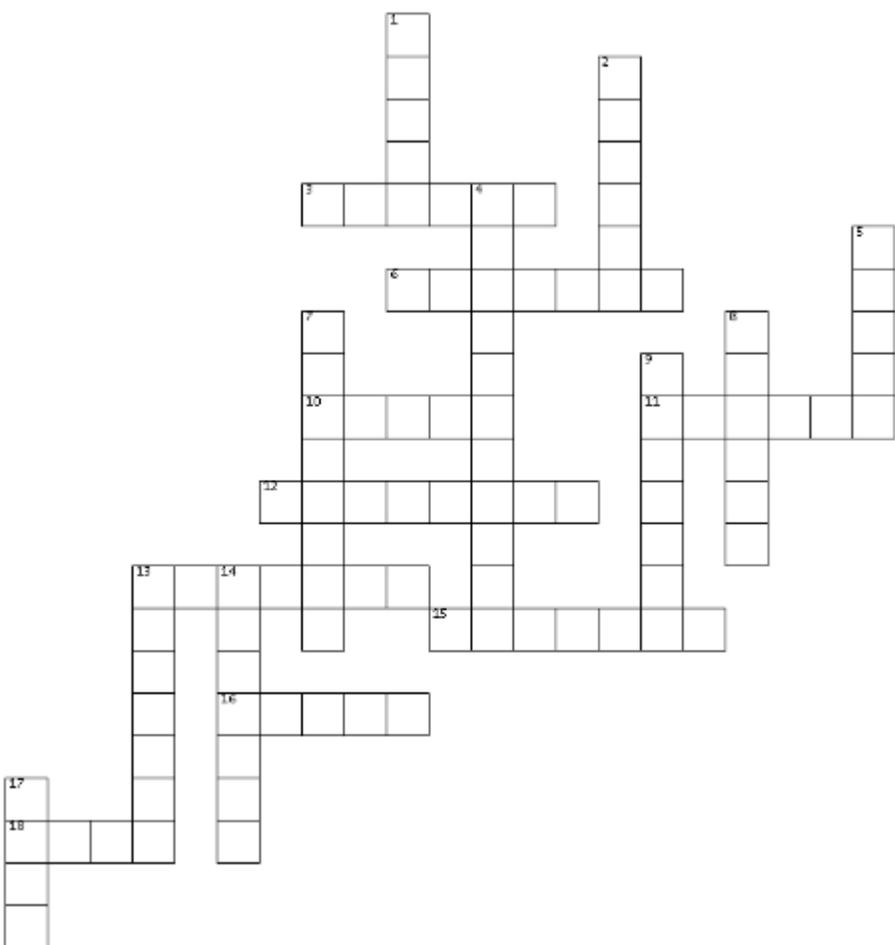
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5			3	9			
6							1
	4			8		9	3
	5			4			8
	7	3		1			2
7							9
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How to beat Str8ts – Like Sudoku, no single number 1 to 9 can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. Each compartment must form a **straight** a set of numbers with **no gaps** but it can be in any order, eg [7,6,9,8]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely. For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://www.sudokuwiki.org) for Sudoku and [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com) for Str8ts. If you like Str8ts and other puzzles, check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store.

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

### Treasure hunt crossword



#### ACROSS

- The Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Housing Act would make it illegal to deny housing to someone with a criminal record.
- The Blocks began working with \_\_\_\_\_ Realty in 2021.
- Research for Equity and \_\_\_\_\_ is recruiting community members.
- What is changing about the ads in The Homepage?
- What will be fixed along Irvine Avenue?
- These textiles can be sources of PFAS.
- Teens can learn this skill at Industrial Arts Workshop this spring.
- Jim McCue says there will be this on Earth someday.
- What Matt Peters writes about harvesting.

#### DOWN

- This Frog Princess was a huge favorite at Hazelwood Light Up Night.

- These pulled the wagon around the neighborhood during Hazelwood Light Up Night.
- The third goal in the transit platform is this, accessible and safe public transit connections.
- Community Kitchen Pittsburgh raised funds by selling unique \_\_\_\_\_ in December.
- Vicar Janssen says your watchword for 2022 should be "I am \_\_\_\_\_!"
- A goal of the S&R Market site project is to celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_ of Hazelwood.
- TRVS moved into the \_\_\_\_\_ Center in 2015.
- Kids decorated \_\_\_\_\_ while waiting for the Christmas Trolley at Lincoln Place Presbyterian.
- Kids in the KRUNK program learn how to do this, as well as dance.
- PA requires community disability supports to provide the \_\_\_\_\_ standard in care.

## COMMUNITY VOICES

# Disability Action Inadequate; MUST Be Strengthened by Wolf Administration and General Assembly

By Gary Blumenthal,  
Vice President of InVision  
Human Services

At a time when PA has billions of dollars in federal money plus state treasury receipts dramatically outperforming projections, the Wolf Administration is failing to fully address the collapse of the community system that provides critical services for people with intellectual disability and autism. The Administration's actions may have tragic consequences for Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

Congress and the President have asked governors to rescue disability programs by increasing funding for the community system's Direct Support Professionals. DSPs provide lifesaving, caring supports for persons with disabilities, and this goal was a key element of the passage of the American Rescue Plan. It is also a vital provision of the pending Build Back Better legislation. Our Commonwealth has received money to achieve this goal, but doing so requires leadership by our Governor to use both the federal dollars and PA's increasing revenues for this purpose.

Instead of responding to the crisis, the Wolf Administration has presented a plan that fails on several fronts:

- Fails to strengthen community services as required by federal law.
- Fails to fund a wage that will hire enough skilled workers to operate community services.
- Fails to offer a pathway to reduce an up to 60% turnover in community program staffing.
- Fails to provide rates for sufficient staffing for programs serving people with medically and behaviorally complex issues.
- Fails to restore service to 6,500 people who have lost supports in the last 18 months.
- Fails to provide **Equal Pay for Equal Work** – 30% less than state workers.
- Fails to support the 5,000 people in crisis at this moment.

PA requires community programs to provide the gold standard of quality supports. Providers must

hire people who can deliver mental health support; teach people how to obtain and hold jobs; administer medication; support people with severe behavioral challenges and medical fragility; be trained in first aid, CPR, and other life-saving procedures; and work with a state bureaucracy that requires reams of documentation each day for every daily activity as well as all medical and behavioral events.

*Families of people with disabilities, service providers, and DSPs join in asking the Governor to fully fund the \$541 million needed to begin salvaging this system.*

Underfunding has resulted in a daily struggle to find qualified workers with prior training or understanding of people with disabilities. This challenge has a direct impact on the quality of services, and has resulted in significant additional training and education expenses for providers. In addition, 12,000+ people are now on endless waiting lists. 5,000+ people are in emergency status. 6,500+ people have lost services in the last 18 months.

Families of people with disabilities, service providers, and DSPs join in asking the Governor to fully fund the \$541 million needed to begin salvaging this system.

This is not a difficult concept. It is within reach. But first Governor Wolf must lead by revising disability rates to stop the further collapse of this system.

The Governor has repeatedly promised service providers that he would protect people with disabilities and their DSPs. We remain deeply disappointed in the actions to date. Our Governor can either rescue people or leave them exposed to significant risk. **We implore Governor Wolf to avoid the collapse of the intellectual disability system on his watch. Thousands of Pennsylvanians with disabilities depend on his leadership.**

Those signing below are leaders of intellectual disability and autism service providers:

Tony Beltran, President/CEO,

Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, Pittsburgh

Terence G. Blackwell, Jr, President/CEO, Chimes International Limited, Baltimore, MD

Diane Conway, CEO, MAX Association, Conshohocken

Rita Gardner, President/CEO of Melmark of Pennsylvania, New England, and Carolinas

Tine Hansen-Turton, President and CEO of Woods Services, Langhorne, PA

William Harriger, President/CEO of Verland Foundation, Sewickley

Karen D. Jacobsen, CEO of Emmaus Community of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

Dr. Susan Latenbacher, President/CEO of Lark Enterprises Inc., New Castle

Susan Leyburn, CEO of LifePath Inc., Bethlehem

Lorraine Livosky, Executive Director of Diversified Family Services, Hermitage

Christopher Shay, President/CEO of McGuire Memorial, New Brighton

Ruth Siegfried, Founder and President/CEO of InVision Human Services, Wexford/Reading/Harrisburg

Kim Sonafelt, CEO of Mainstay Life Services, Pittsburgh

Will Stennett, Chief Officer of Developmental Disabilities & HSCBS Policy, Voices of Independence, Pittsburgh

Stephen H. Suroviec, President/CEO, Achieva, Pittsburgh

Marisol Valentin, Executive Director, McAuley Ministries, Pittsburgh

Charles Walczak, CEO of Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc. (EHCA), Erie

## HOME-GROWN BLUEBERRIES IN YOUR YARD

The Izaak Walton League of Allegheny County has free blueberry bushes to give away as part of The Pittsburgh Blueberry Project. These are for residents of Hazelwood and other environmental justice neighborhoods.

Blueberries are:

- Nutrient rich and good for your brain, heart, skin, and muscle
- Fresh produce you can grow in your yard
- Good for native moths, butterflies and birds

Blueberry bushes are low-maintenance, don't grow very tall and need little pruning. To receive blueberry bushes in the spring, sign up here:

<https://tinyurl.com/HZbluetrees> (web address is case sensitive)

Email Matt Peters, Community Garden Manager for more information:

[gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org)

Learn more about planting blueberries:

<https://tinyurl.com/planting-blueberries>

## ARE WATER AND SEWER OUTAGES AFFECTING YOU?

Find out why online. Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority [PWSA] has improved its service outages page. The page shows where current and planned outages will happen. The map is easy to use and interactive:

<https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/service-outages>

If you rent, PWSA can still notify you about service outages in your area. Call customer service at 412-255-2423 (press 5) to update your contact information. You can also fill out the web form at:

<https://tinyurl.com/update-contact-info-pwsa>

Some service outages affect more than one block and street in an area. When this happens, click on the green triangle on the map, then click the link in the window that pops up. This will show you more information, including a full list of affected blocks and streets.

## COMMUNITY VOICES

## There will be peace on earth someday

By Jim McCue

I'm convinced there will be peace on Earth someday, as difficult as that is to imagine.

The mainstream media has minimized how dire the situation is. A good number of reputable scientists think we're going extinct soon, but this has been ignored.

Human society can become a thriving new world based on love rather than fear. The alternative is extinction. Every species of life eventually goes extinct, of course. Our decisions will affect when.

Where should we put our priorities? If we want a good future, we need to live simply.

The saying, "Live simply so that others may simply live" is true, but incomplete. We OURSELVES won't survive if we all don't live simply. If we don't stop manufacturing, buying and using things we don't really need, this human-caused nightmare will continue. The increasing frequency of heat waves, droughts, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, diseases such as COVID-19, habitat destruction, and loss of biodiversity will continue.

Destruction of the rainforests (often referred to as the "lungs of the planet" because of how much oxy-

gen all those trees produce), is increasing rather than being slowed down. Last year, deforestation of the Amazon increased more than 20% from the year before. We're accelerating rather than putting on the brakes. This is why we need a nonviolent revolution.

**From quantum to global**

Like our global situation, quantum physics is full of contradictions and paradoxes. Light is both wave and particle. Separation is an illusion. One of the physicists of the early 1900's said that if anybody tells

you they understand quantum mechanics, you can be sure they don't because nobody does.

In the same way, our world

is huge, but getting smaller every day. It is complex, but we must live simply.

The present day seems unbelievable to those of us old enough to remember when it was assumed, for instance, that organ transplants were impossible. Every checkout counter uses holography, which is based on quantum physics. People 50 years ago would not have believed possible things we take for granted today. That's why I say we have to start imagining – and creating – a better, more peaceful world. It can be done!

"Put on your thinking cap and get dreaming."

~Margaret Baco

## Let your watchword for the new year be: "I am baptized!"

By Vicar Benjamin Janssen

As Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel and our greater Hazelwood community celebrates the coming of the new year, we do not know what it will bring. For some of us, this next year may be full of

joy and promise but for others, the new year may not look so bright.

No matter what this next year may have in store for you and your family, here are some comforting and joyful words-

from the great German-American Lutheran minister C.F.W. Walther (1811-

1887). I pray that these words

will bring you and your family the same comfort and joy they have given in family.

In a New Year's sermon for 1845, Walther wrote:

Should the Christian stand all day long at the grave of all joys which he enjoyed in past years? Through Holy Baptism a great stream of joy has been conducted in his heart, which does not drain away, but streams forward with his life until its waves carry him into a sea of a blessed eternity. Should the Christian be reminded all day long that the flowers of his youth fall more and more? He stands planted by God in the water of his Baptism as a palm tree which becomes greener and greener and whose leaves never wither. Yes, his baptism makes death for him like a short winter's nap, out of which an eternal spring – an eternal youth – follows.

For Baptism is a bath that washed me not only once when I received it – washed me pure with Christ's blood – but it continuously washes me clean even daily for as long as I hold it in faith. For just as the same water of the flood drowned the sinners, but Noah with his relatives were brought to salvation and carried to Mount Ararat, so also did the

water of my baptism drown my sins, but my soul was brought to the eternal mountain of divine grace. And just as once those same waves of the Red Sea, which swallowed up Pharaoh and his army, were a protective

wall for Israel, so also has my baptismal water

swallowed up all of my damnation and is for me a sure wall before God's wrath and punishment...

Now then, all of you who believe in God's Word, let your watchword for entering the new year be this: "I am baptized!"

Although the world may laugh at this comfort,

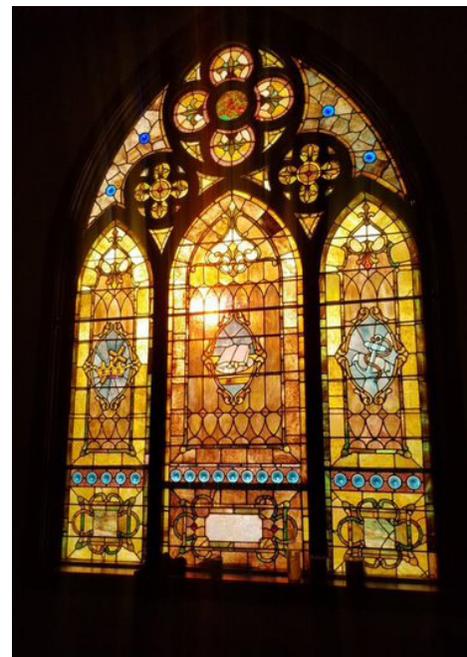
the enthusiasts vex its confidence... nevertheless, abandon any other dearly held pledges and speak only throughout the entire year to come, in all terrors of conscience and necessity through sin and death: "I am baptized, I am baptized, I am baptized! Hallelujah!"

And you shall prevail! In every time of need, you will find comfort in your Baptism; on account of it Satan will flee from your faith and confession; and in death you will see heaven opened and will finally come into the joy of your Lord to celebrate a great year of jubilee, a year of praise, with all the angels forever and ever. Amen!

C.F.W. Walther, "Sermon for New Year's Day (1845)," in *Licht des Lebens: Ein Jahrgang von Evangelien-Predigten* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1905), 90-92, 95. Translated by Jon. D. Vieker.

God's richest blessings from you to us here at Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran chapel! Come join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30 AM! We love you because Jesus Christ first loved us!

Photo: The stained glass window of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church. Photo by Vicar Benjamin Janssen



## CARNEGIE MUSEUMS OFFERS \$20 FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Cold winter days (and hot summer ones) are great times to spend exploring the worlds of art and science at the Carnegie Museums. But museum memberships cost a fortune, right?

Not anymore! The Carnegie Museums now offer \$20 yearly family memberships to any family eligible to receive public assistance (no proof required). Family membership gives you:

A year of FREE general admission for two adults and four children to all four Carnegie Museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center and The Andy Warhol Museum

Invitations and access to members-only events

A year of free admission at more than 550 cooperating museums, arboreta and science centers

Discounted classes, camps, educational films at The Rangos Giant Cinema, laser shows, lectures and other special events

A 10% discount in museum stores and cafes (20% store discount during Member Shopping Days)

A free one-year subscription to Carnegie magazine

Visit <https://carnegiemuseums.org/join-support/membership/family-access-membership/> for more information and to purchase a Carnegie Museums membership.

# Looking back at 2021 and forward to 2022

By Julie & Ted Block

2021 was another whirlwind year! As real estate agents, Ted and I frequently found ourselves rushing to close deals in a super-hot market. At the same time, we made some big, exciting steps as a family, and we're thrilled that 2022 is upon us.

While we're looking ahead with the utmost optimism, we've always found it useful to reflect on the previous year. And since many of you have followed our articles so closely, we thought we'd share some of our favorite 2021 moments here!

## Looking Back on 2021

Professionally, 2021 was a great year. Ted and I moved to Compass Realty, which offers us an incredible toolkit for greater customer service.

That timing was perfect because the market has seen significant shifts over the last two years. With less inventory and greater demand, we became more aggressive on behalf of our clients—and Compass helped us be that much bolder.

On a personal level, we switched to homeschooling our kids in 2021. The transition has been surprisingly smooth, and that's likely because we spent so much time preparing! The kids have loved it so far, and we love the flexibility it affords us. Because we're not following the rigid school calendar, the kids are often ahead of schedule, and we've squeezed in even more extracurriculars—like weekly swim lessons and sewing lessons.

We also started traveling more, thanks to our van. While we still use it to transport furniture for home stagings, we perfected the art of traveling as a family on the road.

## Hopes and Predictions for 2022

We can't believe it, but 2022 will be our sixth year in the real estate business! As we look ahead, we expect Pittsburgh to continue its status as a strong market, with the same level of competition we saw in 2021. With that in mind, we're thrilled to have the support of Compass Realty behind us, as it will empower us to continue providing excellent customer service to our clients.

At the same time, we're planning to dig deeper into our own investing projects. We've even set an ambitious goal of renovating three properties in Pittsburgh this year.

On a personal note, Ted and I want to continue improving our homeschooling skills. It has gone smoothly so far, but 2022 will be an opportunity to refine our skills.

And with our van life strategies perfected, we're looking forward to additional travels with the kids. We currently have our sights set on Yellowstone National Park!

Of course, we also plan to continue contributing to The Homepage throughout 2022, so look for our column each month.

Happy New Year!

Julie & Ted Block

You can reach us at [theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com](mailto:theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com)

## GET HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL

Low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) pays your utility company from \$500 to \$1,500 to keep your heat on in the winter. This money does NOT need repaid.

**Who is eligible?** Renters or homeowners who meet the income guidelines. You do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify.

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$19,320
2	\$26,130
3	\$32,940
4	\$39,750
5	\$46,560
6	\$53,370
7	\$60,180

**How do I apply?**

- Create an account and apply at <http://www.compass.state.pa.us/>
- Download an application at <https://tinyurl.com/liheap-2021-2022>-application and return it to the county public assistance office.

**Where can I learn more?**  
<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx>

# SIX-WORD STORIES

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).

Next month, write a six-word story or poem about:

- Feeling cozy in snowy weather
- How to treat a cold
- A winter memory

Please submit your six-word poems and stories to [editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org) by January 14.

Stories based on last month's prompts:

By Darlene Batko

Today is my son, Richard Bumford's, birthday - December 4th, 1969. We tragically lost him in September, 2017. I would like to submit two six-word stories.

A child in your life  
*Losing a child NEVER gets easier.  
 Parents who lose children die inside.*

By Jason White-Weidow

About a sweet and painful memory:  
*Green velvet pillow magic needed Gramma.*

About a child in my life:  
*Timorously withholding infinities behind effervescent eyes.*

## The Greater Hazelwood Community Collaborative 2022 officers

**Chair:**  
Rev. Michael Murray, Sr.

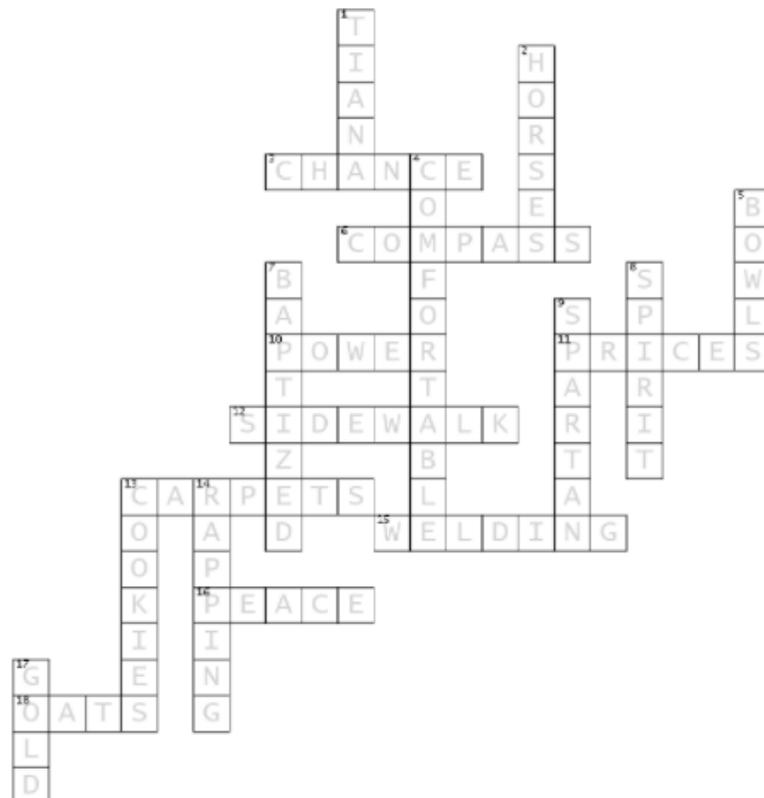
**Vicechair:**  
Deacon Tom Berna

**Secretary:**  
Chad Dorn

**Treasurer:**  
Joey Hepner

**Parliamentarian:**  
Dave Brewton

# Puzzle solutions



Sudoku Solution

3	5	8	7	9	4	1	6	2
9	4	6	2	5	7	8	1	3
7	9	8	3	4	2	1	6	5
4	2	9	6	1	9	5	3	7
7	8	7	9	5	6	2	4	3
5	3	5	1	4	2	7	8	6
1	9	1	6	9	3	8	4	7
8	8	5	2	7	3	9	1	4
2	7	4	1	9	6	5	8	3

Str8ts Solution

4	5	9	7	6	1	3	2
3	7	6	8	5	4	2	1
4	5	6	7	2	3	1	9
9	7	5	3	6	2	8	4
7	6	1	2	3	4	5	8
6	8	3	2	4	7	9	5
5	1	2	3	8	7	9	6
1	2	4	9	5	8	6	7
2	3	4	8	9	7	6	5