



Republican Eugene Bokor faces off against Democrat Barb Warwick for Dist. 5 city council seat

By Juliet Martinez

The District 5 city council race has narrowed to two main contenders: Republican nominee, Eugene Bokor of Lincoln Place, and Democratic nominee, Barb Warwick of Four Mile Run.

Ms. Warwick won the Democratic nomination on September 15 with 63% of the 92 votes that District 5 committee members cast. Ms. Warwick received 58 votes, Kristi Heidel of Greenfield 15, J. "Mac" McCafferty 14 and Rev. Michael Murray received five.

The special election for the council seat on November 8 will coincide with the general election.

Eugene Bokor: "The people of Pittsburgh should have a choice."

The Republican nominee and I spoke by phone in late August.

He said he decided to run because, "The last election, it kind of ticked me off because [former District 5 Councilman] Corey O'Connor ran unopposed," he said. "I think the people of Pittsburgh should have a choice."

Mr. Bokor retired in 2020 after 37 years as the director of finance at Catholic Charities, followed by three years in the same role at Focus North America, an Orthodox Christian charity. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Point Park University and a master's in business administration from Indiana University.

Photo courtesy of Eugene Bokor



A doe in the Hazelwood Greenway last July. Photo by Tiffany Taulton

Should you keep Narcan in your first aid kit? This pharmacist says yes.

By Juliet Martinez

Allegheny County lost 719 people to drug overdose in 2021, according to county health department data. The number of deaths from drug overdoses has been climbing in recent years, which some experts say the isolation of the pandemic has made worse.

In September, I spoke with administrative clinical pharmacist Julie Oplinger about the overdose prevention drug Narcan.

Ms. Oplinger works with the Duquesne University Center for Integrative Health, organizing and facilitating outreach events in Allegheny County. She distributes Narcan, teaches people to use it and how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose, no matter who might be experiencing it.

Ms. Oplinger's answers have been edited for length and clarity.

JM: Can you tell me a little bit about Narcan?

Ms. Oplinger: Narcan is the brand name for the nasal spray of naloxone. It's used in the event of an opioid overdose.

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist, so it blocks the effect of certain drugs in our bodies, reversing an overdose and the effects of the opioid medication. If it's given to a person who is not overdosing, it won't hurt them.

JM: How do you know if someone is overdosing?

If the person is unconscious, unresponsive, has clammy skin, blue

Deer are cute, but they destroy gardens and can destabilize hillsides

By Juliet Martinez

At the District 5 Democratic candidate forum in September, a question about how they would deal with deer infestation took some committee people by surprise.

"My phone started ping-pong," said Ryan Herbinko, who helped develop the questions and was in the audience. "My fellow 31st Ward Committee members were all texting me... 'Is that your question?'"

Mr. Herbinko, a Democratic committee member and president of the 31st Ward Community Action Group, said the question puzzled folks in his part of the city.

"We're more focused on just getting city services," he said when we spoke the next day. "Just getting our streets cleared when it snows, just getting our streets paved."

Eating parks and gardens

But Michele Feingold emailed me deer are everywhere in her neighborhood.

"I live a few houses away from Frick Park in Squirrel Hill, and many people in the area have had

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The Homepage is published by Hazelwood Initiative, Inc., a community-based nonprofit, and is made possible through a grant from the City of Pittsburgh and advertising revenue from local businesses and organizations.

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
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.

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

Almost half of Hazelwood homes have been repaired by Hazelwood Initiative and Rebuilding Together Pgh

Hazelwood Initiative's "Development Without Displacement" strategy has three parts: preserving affordable rental housing, helping Hazelwood renters become homeowners, and helping existing homeowners maintain their homes so that they can stay in their homes.


Since 2015, as funding has permitted, the Discount Home Repair program has helped homeowners stay in their homes by paying 50% to 90% of the cost of home repairs. The homeowner pays the balance and determines what work gets done. A major grant from the Hillman Foundation enabled Hazelwood Initiative to re-launch the program in March of this year. All the funds were committed in less than two months! Clearly this program meets a vital need.

A partnership that promotes stability

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh has frequently been a partner in this program, in addition to the free repair program they offer throughout the region. For three years, this organization made Hazelwood an Impact Neighborhood, focusing their work here and repairing the homes of more than 200 Hazelwood residents free of charge. Hazelwood Initiative has completed or committed to an additional 42 homes through its Discount Home Repair Program; 13 more homes were repaired with Neighborhood Investment Fund COVID-19 grants. This means the two organizations have helped almost half of Hazelwood homeowners with home repairs. That is real impact!

Safer and healthier

Home repair aid programs - like this one and the statewide Whole Home Repair Program funded by the 2022-2023 budget - allow homeowners to hire reputable professionals to fix the systems that their homes, health and safety depend upon. Electrical and plumbing upgrades; new roofs, windows, doors, sidewalks, and brickwork and repair of water damage make homes safer, healthier and more affordable to live in.



Meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month!

Tuesday

Oct. 11

6 - 8 p.m.

GREATER HAZELWOOD

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://bit.ly/2SwPr9k>

CALL IN TO LISTEN: (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 853 9182 9343 Passcode: 796212

DRAWING FOR 4 \$25 GIFT CARDS AT THE END!


Greater Hazelwood Tree Giveaway

October 20, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

GET A TREE (OR 2) FOR YOUR YARD!

Add beauty to your landscape with trees from Tree Pittsburgh

LIMIT TWO TREES PER HOUSEHOLD



Order your tree at:

<https://bit.ly/3BkvzMB>

Become a Hazelwood Initiative member!

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/HazelwoodInitiativeMembership> or complete and return the following form. Membership is free!

Title (circle one) Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms. Mx. Dr.

Name (first and last) _____

Address _____

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

HOUSING AND UTILITY AID

AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING

If you are looking for a rental unit and have a Section-8 voucher, fill out the renter interest form at <https://www.hazelwoodinitiative.org/harpp>.

AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP

If you are a low- or moderate-income family looking to buy a newly renovated or newly constructed home with a monthly mortgage payment of \$500-\$800, fill out the interest form at <https://www.hazelwoodinitiative.org/ahop>.

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS

The Pennsylvania Homeowner’s Assistance Fund helps keep homeowners from falling behind or losing their home through foreclosure. Learn more and apply for aid at <https://pahaf.org/>, or call (888) 987-2423.

LEGAL AID FOR HOUSING

Tenant Services: Mediation, limited legal consultation, full legal representation
Homeowner Services: Tangled title, foreclosure prevention
For a Legal Assistance Program referral, call: (412) 534-6600
Non-English speakers, please call: (412)-530-5244

PWSA BILL ASSISTANCE

Apply at <https://www.pgh2o.com/residential-commercial-customers/customer-assistance-programs>, or call Dollar Energy Fund, (866) 762-2348.

HEATING BILL ASSISTANCE

The 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 to be repaid. Low-income renters or homeowners do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify. Create an account and apply at <http://www.compass.state.pa.us/>. Apply at www.compass.state.pa.us. Learn more at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx>

RESOURCES FOR FINDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

<https://www.publicsource.org/pittsburgh-allegHENY-county-affordable-housing-service-guide/>

AFFORDABLE INTERNET

This U.S. government program helps low-income households pay for broadband service and internet-connected devices.
Apply at <https://ACPBenefit.org>
Call (877) 384-2575 M-F 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Email ACPSupport@usac.org.

ARE YOU CLOSE TO HAVING YOUR WATER SHUT OFF?

Apply for up to \$5,000 of water or sewer bill aid through the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program. If you are behind on your water or sewer bills, at risk of having service cut off or have already had service shut off, you can apply for free aid. Up to \$2,500 each for water and sewer is available to low-income applicants.
Go to www.dhs.pa.gov/waterhelp for information on how to apply.

WATER AND SEWER OUTAGES

Find out where current and planned water and sewer outages will happen.
<https://www.pgh2o.com/projects-maintenance/service-outages>
PWSA can notify renters about service outages in your area.
Call customer service at (412) 255-2423 (press 5) to update your contact information to receive notifications. Or fill out the web form at: <https://tinyurl.com/update-contact-info-pwsa>

MEDIATION FOR RENTERS AND LANDLORDS

If a dispute with your landlord is putting your housing at risk, you need help with a housing conflict or communication with your landlord or tenant has broken down, contact Just Mediation for free mediation services that work with your schedule.
Email: info@justmediationpgh.org
Call: (412) 228-0730
Web: www.justmediationpgh.org

WEATHER-PROOF YOUR HOME

Action Housing and Duquesne Light have partnered to help low- and fixed-income households weatherize their homes. This program runs all year. Call Action Housing at (412) 281-2102 (ext. 2101). Note: Renters must get their landlord’s permission before making changes in their home.

CLOTHING AND FOOD AID

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN CHAPEL OF HAZELWOOD

Food and clothing distribution:

Every other Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Community dinners: First and third Sundays, 4-6 p.m.
(412) 521-0844
5319 Second Ave., 15207

FISHES AND LOAVES COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES

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.-1 p.m.
Emergency food boxes: Pick up at Spartan Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. M-F or home delivery in a 15-mile radius of the office. Call to arrange weekend service.
Grocery-buying assistance
Phone: (412) 499-4313. Ask for Dylan Knapp-Scott
131 E. Elizabeth St. 15207

HAZELWOOD YMCA FOOD PANTRY

Food box distribution: First Saturday of every month
Phone: (412) 421-2708
Address: 134 E. Elizabeth St., 15207

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL PARISH FOOD PANTRY

Food distribution in the Saint Rosalia rectory building every Tuesday from 2-3 p.m. (412) 621-4951
411 Greenfield Ave., 15207

HEALTH, MEDICAL AND COVID-19 RESOURCES

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AND TESTING

Rite-Aid
4934 Second Ave. 15207
Phone: (412) 421-6948
Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Book an appointment online if possible at <https://www.riteaid.com/locations/pa/pittsburgh/4934-second-avenue.html>.

Hazelwood Family Health Center
4918 Second Ave., 15207
Phone: (641) 715-3900
Extension: 301402
Call for an appointment.

THE CHILDREN’S INSTITUTE

Rehabilitation and educational services for children with a range of needs. Behavioral therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy are available. Autism services include applied behavior analysis and social skills groups. The approved and licensed private academic day school serves autistic children and children with multiple disabilities ages 5-21. Transition services for children ages 14-21 help prepare them for independent living.
1405 Shady Ave., 15217
For more information, call (412) 420-2400 or visit <https://amazingkids.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. Contact Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman at mgoodman@bethshalompgh.org or (412) 421-2288. See www.bethshalompgh.org/medicaldevices/ for more information.

FAMILY AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

RESOLVE CRISIS SERVICES

(888) 796-8226
24-hour mental health crisis support

AUTISM URBAN CONNECTIONS

Parents and caregivers for children with autism and related disorders can meet in a safe space. Meetings are online every second Thursday of the month. Register at tinyurl.com/SupportGroupRegistration. Join Circles of Care, a six-week program teaching parents and caregivers skills and techniques to improve your family’s quality of life. Complete the course to be certified as a volunteer family engagement peer support. Contact info@aucopfgh.org for more information.

GREATER HAZELWOOD FAMILY CENTER

Home visits, assessments, services, family goal-setting and support for parents and families.
Contact Danielle Gill: dgill@cotraic.org
5006 Second Ave., 15207
Phone: (412) 904-2005
<https://www.cotraic.org/greater-hazelwood-family-center>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

CHURCHES

THE CHURCH AT MON RIVER
3929 Coleman St., 15207
(502) 235-0641
connect@monriver.com
www.atmonriver.com

FIRST HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH
221 Johnston Ave., 15207
(412) 421-0279

FOUNTAIN OF LIFE CHURCH
247 Johnston Ave., 15207
(412) 422-8794
www.fountainoflifepgh.co

HOLY ANGELS CHURCH
408 Baldwin Road, 15207
(412) 461-6906
https://www.facebook.com/holyangelshays/

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHAPEL
5319 Second Ave., 15207
(412) 521-0844
www.holycrosspgh.info

KEYSTONE CHURCH OF HAZELWOOD
161 Hazelwood Ave., 15207
(412) 521-3468
https://www.centeroflife.net/

LINCOLN PLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1202 Muldowney Ave., 15207
Sunday worship at 10 a.m.
412-461-3377

MARY S. BROWN-AMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Temporarily meeting at
515 West 8th Ave., Homestead, 15120
(412) 421-4431
www.brightredfence.org

MORNINGSTAR BAPTIST CHURCH
5524 Second Ave., 15207
(412) 421-6269

PRAISE TEMPLE DELIVERANCE CHURCH
Pastor Lutual M. Love, Sr.
5400 Glenwood Ave., 15207
(412) 277-0113

ST. JOHN CHRYSTOSTOM BYZ-ANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
506 Saline St., 15207
Pastor@sjcbcc.com
https://sjcbcc.com
(412) 421-0243

SQUIRREL HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
290 Bigelow St., 15207
(412) 521-2447

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST BAPTIST
4537 Chatsworth Ave., 15207
(412) 626-3232
info@stjohnpgh.org
www.stjohnpgh.org

ST. ROSALIA CATHOLIC CHURCH
411 Greenfield Ave., 15207
(412) 421-5766
info@saintpaulcathedral.org
www.ghocatholics.org

ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH
5115 Second Ave., 15207
(412) 621-4951
info@saintpaulcathedral.org
www.ghocatholics.org

STEEL CITY CHURCH
290 Bigelow St., 15207
(412) 342-8387
info@thesteelcitychurch.com
www.thesteelcitychurch.com

WARRIORS OF HOLINESS IN POWER (W.H.I.P. Ministries)
1174 Mifflin Road, 15207
(412) 461-5572
whipwarriors@gmail.com
www.whipministries.org

HOTLINES AND INFORMATION

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.
24/7 hotline: (888) 856-2774
Text alerts:
ww.allegHENYcounty.us/alerts
General info and help: Call 2-1-1
OR text your ZIP code to 898-211

HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE COMMUNITY UPDATES
facebook.com/hazelwoodinitiative

PRAISE TEMPLE COMMUNITY HOTLINE
Answering M-F, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
(412) 422-1983

CENTER OF LIFE
COVID-19 Online Resource Guide
Centeroflifeonline.net/covid

CAREER RESOURCES

JOB SEARCHING?
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>

TRANSIT RESOURCES

ACCESS PARA-TRANSIT
ACCESS is a coordinated, shared-ride paratransit service providing door-to-door, advance-reservation transportation in Allegheny County. Visit <https://myaccessride.com/> for more information.

ARE YOU NOT RECEIVING YOUR HOMEPAGE?

Let your mail carrier know you want to get your Homepage every single month without fail!

NEED AN EXTRA COPY?
If you need extra copies of The Homepage or yours was not delivered, pick them up at Hazelwood Initiative, 4901 Second Ave., Second Floor, 15207. You may also call 412-421-7234 x 406 or email editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org. Please include your home address.



HOMEPAGE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Community members, nonprofit organizations, business owners and anyone who wishes to submit writing to The Homepage, please be aware that:

- The deadline for submissions is the second Friday of each month for publication the following month.
- Letters to the editor (up to 300 words), opinion pieces and personal essays (300-600 words) are all welcome. For reported articles, pitches are due by the first Friday of the month.
- Please send us your school updates and event announcements from nonprofit organizations and other neighborhood-based groups.
- The Homepage reserves the right to decide what will appear in print.
- Submissions may be edited for length, grammar, punctuation and clarity.
- Submissions received after the deadline may be declined or held for a future issue at the discretion of the editor.
- Please direct your questions, suggestions and story ideas to Juliet Martinez, managing editor. Email: jmartinez@hazelwoodinitiative.org

Phone: (412) 421-7234 x406

ADVERTISE IN THE HOMEPAGE

- The Homepage offers affordable advertising rates to promote small businesses and the health of our neighborhood economy.
- Contracts must be submitted by the first Friday of each month for publication the following month. Art must be submitted by the second Friday of the month.
- Ads received after the deadline may be declined or held for a future issue at the discretion of the editor.
- Contact Sarah Kanar (skanar@hazelwoodinitiative.org) for more information.

ELECTION RESOURCES

How to vote with a criminal record in Pennsylvania

By Addy Lord

Every state can have different requirements for voting with a criminal record, which can make it confusing to fully understand voting rights in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania law does allow for most citizens with a criminal record to vote.

According to Pennsylvania law, a citizen with a criminal record may register and vote if they are:

- Awaiting trial for either a misdemeanor or felony conviction, whether they are incarcerated or at home
- Incarcerated with a misdemeanor conviction
- On probation or released on parole, including residing in a halfway house after a felony or misdemeanor conviction
- Under house arrest (home confinement) for either a felony or misdemeanor conviction

A citizen with a criminal record may not register or vote if they:

- Are serving a sentence for a felony conviction
- Are under pre-release status while residing at a halfway house for a felony conviction
- Were convicted for violating election laws within the last

four years

Citizens who have a misdemeanor or felony on their criminal record, and who live outside of prison may vote in person at their polling place, or they may request a mail-in ballot with a form through the Department of State Website or by calling and requesting a form.

Voter registration forms and mail-in ballot applications may be sent to eligible voters who are currently incarcerated. If they reside in a state prison, the forms will be scanned and processed digitally, through the Florida address. The Pennsylvania Department of State will also send a ballot application when contacted by phone at 1-877-868-3772.

Institutions are not universally required to proactively provide forms, though some will provide them upon request. An individual eligible to vote while incarcerated should use their last known address for their registration, and may only use the prison, jail or halfway house address to receive election mail. Official mail may be sent directly to the state prison. The address is found on the correctional facility website.

The last day to register to vote in Pennsylvania for the 2022 General Election is Tuesday, October 24,

and the last day to apply for a mail-in ballot is Tuesday, November 1. Mail-in ballots must be received by the county elections office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8. To ensure a mail-in ballot arrives in time, voters are advised to mail it by November 1 or hand delivered it to the election office by November 8.

The Pennsylvania Department of State has printable forms and more detailed information at www.vote.pa.gov or 1-877-868-3772. If you have any trouble finding the resources you need, seek help from:

- The Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) at 412-212-8775 or bpep.pittsburgh@gmail.com
- The League of Women Voters of Pittsburgh at 412-261-4284 or info@lwvpgh.org
- The 15th Ward Democratic Committee at pgh15warddems@gmail.com or pgh15warddems.com. The 15th Ward Democratic Committee will assist any voter regardless of their party affiliation.

Addy Lord is vice-chair of the 15th Ward Democratic Committee.

Work the polls!

Did you know?

Poll workers are needed on election day.

Earn \$150 or \$175 for the day!

Paid training!

High school students 17 and older can work the polls too!

Find out more:

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/elections/poll-workers.aspx>

OUR CITY. OUR SEAT. OUR VOICE.

In the past two years alone, **Barb Warwick** has worked hard with residents and community groups to:

- Stop the Mon-Oakland Connector shuttle road through Schenley Park and Four Mile Run
- Increase bus service to Squirrel Hill and Oakland on the 93
- Raise \$90K+ for a playground at Greenfield School
- Launch the petition to reopen Magee Pool
- Expand after-school programs at the Burgwin Rec Center
- Support the project to establish a co-op grocery store in the Hazelwood Business District
- Push for traffic calming and sidewalk improvements in Greenfield and Hazelwood

LEARN MORE AT BARBFORPGH.COM



Barb is a working mom of four living in The Run.

Let her know about your community's needs.

Email: barbforpgh@gmail.com

Phone: (412) 368-2068

Social: @Barb4PGH

ELECTION RESOURCES

ELECTION AND VOTER RESOURCES FOR THE 15TH AND 31ST WARDS

PA DEPARTMENT OF STATE VOTING AND ELECTION INFORMATION VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.VOTE.PA.GOV](https://www.vote.pa.gov) OR CALL 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-3772)

Register online: vote.pa.gov/Register

You are qualified to vote if you are:

- A United States citizen for at least 30 days before November 8, 2022
- A resident of Pennsylvania and have lived in your election district for at least 30 days before November 8, 2022
- At least 18 years of age on November 8, 2022

Register by October 24 online, by mail, or in person at 542 Forbes Ave., Suite 604, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

If you have moved or changed your name, you may need to register to vote again.

Mail-in vs. Absentee voting

Any registered voter may request a mail-in ballot without giving a reason. You may need identification verification for a mail-in ballot application.	If you will be traveling or have an illness or disability that prevents you from going to the polling place on Election Day, you may request an absentee ballot. A reason is required.
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Call 1-877-VOTESPA or visit <https://www.vote.pa.gov> for more information.

I am disabled. Can I have someone help me vote by mail?

The county elections office allows you to designate an agent to obtain and/or return your mail-in or absentee ballot on your behalf. Fill out the form at: https://www.alleghenycounty.us/uploadedFiles/Allegheny_Home/Dept-Content/Elections/Docs/Authorize-Designated-Agent-for-Mail-in-or-Absentee-Ballot.pdf

Can I vote after a felony conviction? Visit

<https://campaignlegal.org/restoreyourvote> to find out.

Source: <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Register-to-Vote/>

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Where and when can I vote?

Find your polling location:

Visit <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/pollingplaceinfo.aspx>. Polling Locations are open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm on Election Day. If you are in line to vote at 8:00 pm, you are entitled to vote. You may not be turned away!

Will I need to show ID?

If it is your first time voting at a particular location, you must show ID.

Approved forms of ID

The ID must include the name and address of the voter, and be valid and not expired (if a photo ID).

- PA driver's license or ID card issued by PennDOT
- ID issued by any other Commonwealth agency or the US government, including a passport or military ID
- Voter's identification card issued by the voter registration commission
- Student or employee ID
- Firearm permit
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Current paycheck
- Government check

Accessibility

All polling locations are required to be accessible. This may mean there is a ramp or a separate entrance, and there should be accessible parking spaces near the door. All locations must also have at least one accessible voting system. You may also have a person assist at your polling location.

Where can I call if I have problems voting?

All Pennsylvanians may call the State Voter Hotline at 1-877-868-3772 with questions or if they encounter problems on election day. The Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights provides a Voter Protection Hotline at 1-866-687-8683 (1-866-OUR-VOTE) or 866ourvote.org

Council

- Continued from Front Page

Mr. Bokor said his background makes him a good candidate for city council because he wants more transparency in city government finances. For example, he said, the bike lanes installed under Mayor Bill Peduto eliminated a lot of on-street parking and parking revenue. He wants to know how much was lost and how it is being recouped from other sources.

Mr. Bokor also supports rigorous bridge inspections and maintenance. He said basic upkeep is essential.

"If you see a bridge rusting, you go after that rust in order to prevent it from deteriorating more," he said, acknowledging that lack of funding

he supports taxing new buildings constructed by colleges, universities, hospitals and other nonprofits.

Mr. Bokor served as the treasurer of the 31st Ward Community Action Group at one time and still sits on its board. Ryan Herbinko, the group's president, called Mr. Bokor "a great person to work with."

"We never had an issue finance-wise with him," Mr. Herbinko said when we spoke last month. He said Mr. Bokor was, "Never an impediment, but rather a good steward and made sure everything was accounted for and properly spent."

A race between newcomers

Whoever wins the special election, the District 5 seat will be held by a political newcomer for the first time since Bob O'Connor was elected in 1991. His chief of staff, Doug Shields, succeeded him, and his son Corey held the office from 2012 until leaving to become the Allegheny County Controller in July. Both Ms. Warwick and Mr. Bokor are new to public office.

"What's beautiful about that is you don't know what you're not supposed to do," said city Democratic committee chair Leeann Younger when we spoke at the nomination event. She said newcomers can value history and tradition, but, "It doesn't stop you from thinking about the role of your office in a different way."

"The big advantage will be coming at the job from the resident's perspective," Ms. Warwick told me the morning after the nomination. "Coming in with a fresh eye is going to make it a lot easier to look at 'how things work' and ask how they might work better."

Ms. Warwick said she is focused on knocking on as many doors as possible and listening to residents' concerns, not only as a campaign strategy but in order to serve the needs of District 5 residents.

A writer and editor at an IT firm, Ms. Warwick got her start as a community organizer against the Mon-Oakland Connector. At the September 7 Democratic candidate forum, she said, "That fight was about more than a shuttle road through a public park. It was about big money special interests being prioritized while the needs of residents were going unmet. That's why I'm running for city council, to meet those needs."



Barb Warwick, Democratic nominee for the District 5 city council seat (left), and Leeann Younger, Pittsburgh Democratic Committee chair, at the nomination event. Photo by Ray Gerard

affects preventative maintenance.

Mr. Bokor objects to attempts by city council to create municipal gun ordinances or amend the home rule charter to limit gun ownership. "I do not feel Council should be expecting taxpayers to foot the bill for lawyers to take away our second amendment rights," Mr. Bokor wrote in a follow-up email. "Let them try on their own and dig into their own pockets to pay the lawyers."

The Republican nominee emailed that he favors legal immigration and a path to citizenship. He wrote that undocumented immigrants transported from border states might be housed in shelters, saying those resources are needed by people already living here.

Mr. Bokor suggested addressing homelessness and the housing crisis by getting the private sector involved in developing the Pittsburgh Land Bank, a program designed to address blighted properties. CBS Pittsburgh reported in August that the Land Bank has not produced a single rehabbed home in nine years since its inception.

On the topic of traffic calming, the Republican nominee supports a combination of speed traps, flashing lights and rumble strips. He also said

Find past articles on the District 5 council race online at <https://www.hazelwoodinitiative.org/blog/categories/district-5-city-council-race>.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

New state budget delivers historic funding for education and physical, mental health, Whole Home Repairs and more

From the office of Rep. Summer Lee, representing Pennsylvania's 34th District

2022-2023 Budget

While no budget is perfect, this year the General Assembly delivered a historic increase in state funding for education for pre-K through college, special education, and physical safety and mental health. This investment is critical for families and especially for children, who are just beginning their education journeys. While the new funding will pay dividends in the future, we have already started to enjoy its benefits. In August, the State announced \$7.8 million in new funding for Allegheny County's early childhood education.

Whole-Home Repair Program

In addition to the increase in education funding, the legislature passed the Whole Home Repair Program, which will help low-income homeowners afford home repairs through grants of up to \$50,000. Applications for this program have not yet opened. Look for more information in early 2023 when the State has more details available. By investing in workers, families, and communities, we can work toward a better future for all of us.

FireOps 101

Recently, Pittsburgh Fire Fighters invited my legislative colleagues and me to experience our first responders' training regimen. We learned about fire behavior, search and rescue, aerial ladder operations, and more! A special thanks to our

Pittsburgh Fire Fighters for their service to our community.

Pathways to Pardons

On October 6, 2022, we will be hosting a resource fair for individuals who have a criminal record or have been incarcerated. The goal is to connect people to the proper support post-conviction. Details are soon to come. Please give us a call at 412-273-3400 or visit <https://www.bop.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

Help for veterans

On the third Friday of each month, we host a representative from the American Legion to help veterans or their families access services. If you are a veteran or know a veteran who would like to learn more about the resources call our office at 412-273-3400 to schedule an appointment.

Legislative reapportionment

Every decade, Pennsylvania redraws its legislative districts to account for how the population has changed. This process, called reapportionment, means that District 34 will add the boroughs of East Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg, and parts of Homewood South, Point Breeze, and Point Breeze North neighborhoods of Pittsburgh. To compensate for these additions, District 34 will no longer include the boroughs of Homestead, Turtle Creek, and West Homestead, nor the Greenfield, Hays, Hazelwood, Lincoln Place, and Squirrel Hill neighborhoods of Pittsburgh. For more information on legislative reapportionment, visit www.redistricting.state.pa.us.



Rep. Summer Lee (center) at a Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire special first responders' training for legislators. Photo courtesy of Rep. Summer Lee's office

State's 2022-23 budget invests in school and community safety, mental health

From the Office of Sen. Jay Costa, representing Pennsylvania's 43rd district



Photo courtesy of Sen. Costa's office

In July, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed the budget for 2022-2023, making critical investments in public education, housing, and community safety. Much of the money allocated to these investments came from the American Rescue Plan, meaning we did not have to raise taxes on families.

All of us want to make sure our children grow up in safe communities free from fear and violence. However, as a dual epidemic of mental health struggles and gun violence sweep the nation, our young people

need investments in programs that will offer them the care and safety they need. That is why the state budget provided schools with \$200 million to address student mental health and school safety. Of that, \$5 million from the School Safety funds was set aside for school safety and school employee security training.

Additionally, \$5 million from the Mental Health funds is for the Mental Health Intern Program at Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. This grant funding will be used for suicide awareness and prevention, updates to school safety training and technology, and telehealth staff and technology.

I thank Governor Wolf for his leadership in budget negotiations as we successfully passed his final budget before leaving office. It is my sincere belief that investing in school and community safety by addressing mental health will benefit our young people, and I am proud of the work the Senate has done to improve access to mental healthcare for students.



Greater Hazelwood SAFE HALLOWEEN

Grab & Go Style
Free big pre-sealed bags of candy
Free raffle for a gift basket

Oct. 31 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**5125 Second Ave. Gazebo at the
Corner of 2nd & Johnston**

Want to donate candy? Please drop it off to the HI
office at 4901 Second Ave. Fl. 2, by October 20

HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE
growing together

HEALTH

Narcan

- Continued from Front Page

lips or blue fingers, pin-point pupils and very slow breathing or pulse.

JM: How do you administer Narcan?

First contact 911. Then lay the person on their back. Tilt their head back and administer one nasal spray into one nostril by firmly pressing your thumb against the red plunger. Then roll them to one side in case they vomit. That can potentially happen, and you don't want them to inhale it.

Administer Narcan through one nostril. If they're going to have a response to the one nasal spray, it's going to be within two to three minutes. If there is no response,

you want to administer the other nasal spray into the other nostril. You can't reuse the sprays. Once they're used, they must be discarded.

However, if you have additional Narcan available, you can give one every 2-3 minutes if the person is still unresponsive.

Stay with the person and wait for the paramedics to arrive.

JM: What response should people look for?

The person should hopefully start to regain consciousness after the first dose. Breathing and heart rate should start to increase. They should respond to your voice or touch.

One thing I want to warn people about is that after you administer the Narcan the person could be combat-

ive once they wake up. Some folks become upset that their high is no longer there.

JM: Who needs to keep an anti-overdose drug on hand?

Narcan should be a part of every single person's first aid kit, whether they're a first responder, a teacher, or just an everyday person or parent. It should be in everyone's first aid kit.

Our goal at the Center for Integrative Health is to reduce the stigma of Narcan. Oftentimes when someone approaches our table at an event, we'll say, 'We offer Narcan here free of charge. We'll train you on how to use it.' They'll say, 'Oh no, I don't do drugs.'

However, you never know if you have an elderly neighbor or friend who's on pain medication and accidentally takes too much, or if you have a toddler next door who somehow gets into their parents' medication, and they overdose.

There are just so many scenarios where Narcan can be used to save someone's life.

JM: What about fentanyl? I understand it is a medication used in clinical settings, but people are also using it as a street drug or mixing it into other kinds of drugs. Is Narcan effective if someone is overdosing on fentanyl?

Narcan will indeed reverse the effects of fentanyl. Fentanyl is an opioid drug. It works the same way as say, oxycodone and heroin. It's more potent (up to 50 times stronger than heroin), however it still can be reversed by Narcan.

And we're finding fentanyl in everything. It's not just in a fentanyl patch. People are injecting fentanyl and it's being found in pressed pills. It's being laced into all different drugs such as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine, and is being found in pressed pills, so people think they're getting one drug but they're actually getting something that contains fentanyl. Fentanyl is a big concern.

But again, having Narcan on hand can reverse those deadly effects.

JM: Where can you get Narcan?

It's available at every pharmacy. Each pharmacy has a standing order from the state so it's a prescription written right there, and they dispense it. That's the easiest, most direct route of obtaining Narcan.

JM: What else do you want people to know?

What I would emphasize most is that addiction is truly, truly a disease. It does not discriminate. You

might look at someone and think, 'Oh, there's no way they could have a drug problem. They're an athlete or a professional person.' That is simply not true. Everyone you talk to most likely knows someone who struggles or has struggled with addiction, which simply reinforces that we all need to be prepared in our everyday lives just in case we come across someone who needs help.

Substance use and recovery resources

Get free Narcan by mail

Visit <https://nextdistro.org/pachoice>

Find treatment for substance use disorders

<https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelpnow/> or call 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Learn more about overdoses

Visit <https://www.overdoseday.com/overdose-basics/>

Harm reduction for people who use drugs

Prevention Point Pittsburgh: visit <https://www.pppgh.org/> or call 412-247-3404

Never use drugs alone

If you use alone, call (800) 484-3731 or visit <https://neverusealone.com/>.

HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING



Hazelwood Initiative is putting the final touches on newly renovated **two-bedroom** rental units reserved for families whose **income falls between \$3,800-\$5,700 monthly**.

For more information, fill out the interest form at <https://www.hazelwoodinitiative.org/harpp> or contact Dave Brewton by emailing dbrewton@hazelwoodinitiative.org or calling 412-421-7234 ext. 407.

Hazelwood Flea Market

- ✓ Music
- ✓ Vendors
- ✓ Food

Dates: August 13th, September 3rd, October 1st, November 5th.

Time: noon-4 pm

Location: 5006 Second Ave Pittsburgh, Pa 15207

More Info - Call Joey @ 412-910-5452

HEALTH

Healthy Habit Studio: Chiropractic care for a healthier you

By Dr. Hailey Steinhauser

Hello, Pittsburgh community! I am Dr. Hailey Steinhauser, chiropractor and postural neurologist. I recently opened my practice in Squirrel Hill and I am excited to share tips on how to get healthy, stay healthy, and live your best life.

Chiropractic care has been a part of my life since I was a child. My little brother had horrible constipation that just wouldn't go away until he got his spine adjusted by a chiropractor. It felt like a miracle!

I became a chiropractor to help people heal; to identify and correct the root cause of each problem.

At this point you might be asking, what is chiropractic and how can it help me?

Chiropractic care helps keep you healthy by improving the communication between your brain and your body. As humans, we all have the incredible ability to heal (think about when you get a bruise; you don't need to tell it how to heal, it just goes away on its own!). This goes for everything in the body, but sometimes stress, lifestyle, and chronic injuries block that ability.

Chiropractic adjustments remove those blocks by improving your brain-body connection and allowing your body's innate healing ability to strengthen naturally.

Chiropractic helps with all sorts of things, from pain (headaches, migraines, back/neck pain, pregnancy pains), to posture improvements, to helping you improve your athletic performance.

When it comes to pain, it might be a sudden injury where you fell down or perhaps you sneezed and then suddenly you're in so much pain that you can't move. It might be long-term pain - old injuries that flare up every couple of months that you've learned to live with.

Chiropractic adjustments allow your brain and body to "talk" more effectively so that you can heal properly.

Chiropractic adjustments allow your brain and body to "talk" more effectively so that you can heal properly. The adjustments help your joints and nervous system do what they're supposed to do, which decreases and can even eliminate your pain altogether.

When it comes to posture, chiropractic care is the best way to help you improve it effectively. Posture is important because not

only will you look better (I have many patients wanting to get rid of that "hump" on their neck), but you'll feel and function better too. Good posture improves your focus, memory, breathing, and even helps prevent injuries. And it's not just about "sitting up straight." Through adjustments and brain-based exercises, you'll find that your posture starts to improve even when you're not thinking about it!

When it comes to athletic performance, research has shown that chiropractic adjustments allow you to respond faster and more accurately when you're moving, throwing, reaching, swinging, etc. Being quicker and more accurate helps you be better at what you're doing and even helps prevent injuries!

If you're dealing with pain or stress, want better posture, or want to improve in your sport, schedule an assessment with me so we can get to the root cause of what is going on in your body and help you meet your goals.

Dr. Hailey Steinhauser
Healthy Habit Studio
Chiropractor, Certified Postural Neurologist

Paid content from a Homepage sponsor.

HEALTHY HABIT STUDIO



Better Posture
for a Better Way of Life



BOOK YOUR CHIROPRACTIC ASSESSMENT

(412) 436-9065

www.healthyhabitstudio.com
5865 Forbes Ave, 2nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

TESTIMONIAL

"Dr. Hailey is absolutely incredible! I've never had a chiropractor like her. For being 32 weeks pregnant, it is amazing how good I feel. I have zero back or hip pain, and she has even helped me address issues with digestion and low energy. Her work is so holistic and personalized. If you're even considering chiropractic care, be sure to reach out!"

THE GREATER HAZELWOOD COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE HOUSING COMMITTEE PRESENTS

THE HAZELWOOD HOUSING SUMMIT

*Development without Displacement:
Tools for a Gentrifying Neighborhood*

How will our community address the threat of gentrification to long-time low-income residents of Hazelwood, whether renters or homeowners?

Come learn about:

- Homesteading property tax exemptions
- LERTA tax abatements
- Inclusionary zoning
- Managing home equity/HILPS/reverse mortgages
- Discount and free home repair programs
- Predatory flippers and lenders
- Community land trusts
- HI affordable homeownership program
- Hazelwood Affordable Rental Preservation Project (HARPP)
- Neighborhood Legal Services
- And more!

Where: Propel Hazelwood,
5401 Glenwood Ave, 15207

When: Wednesday, September 28,
refreshment and resource tables at
5:30, presentations at 6 p.m.



GREATER HAZELWOOD'S

LIGHT UP NIGHT

SAVE THE date

DECEMBER 5
6 - 8 P.M.

ALONG SECOND AVE.

Activities

HORSE & BUGGY • FACE PAINTING • CRAFTS • FOOD • BAND • SUPERHERO & PRINCESS PHOTO OP • CHRISTMAS TREE RAFFLE • GAMES

Want to donate?

To drop off donations: Take new or gently used tree ornaments, tree lights, and trees to the Hazelwood Carnegie Library at **5006 Second Ave.**

To schedule pickup of donations: Call Edith Abeyta at **(412) 295-1795**

For monetary donations: Drop off donations to H.I. office at **4901 Second Ave., 2nd Floor**

More Information (412) 421-7234

FAMILIAR FACES



The 8th annual JADA House International Blast-Off brought together kids, teens, adults and elders for a day of fun in the sun. Haircuts, face painting, health screenings and school supply giveaways all made the day at Hazelwood Green Plaza at the end of August special.

Photos by Michael Muehlbauer



FAMILIAR FACES



Left: One of the Allegheny GoatScape goats who visited the greenway and cleared invasive plants, all while looking adorable. Above left: Tree Pittsburgh and volunteers from Mill 19 developer RIDC placed mulch around trees on the grounds of the former YMCA, now home to Three Rivers Village School. Above right: Jasmine Pope from Phipps Conservatory led an all-ages gardening workshop at the Carnegie Library in Hazelwood.

Photos by Matt Peters

Below: Members of the Pittsburgh Major Taylor Cycling Club held a ride in honor of 6-year-old Jamel Austin, who died after being hit by a car on Johnston Avenue in Glen Hazel in late July.

Right: Friends reconnected at the free Senior Lunch served every first and third Tuesday at Lincoln Place Presbyterian. Bingo follows lunch on the third Tuesday of the month (see page 15).

Photos by Juliet Martinez



DEVELOPMENT

Woods Village: Community members divided over the need for housing versus preserving tree canopy and the stability of the hillside

By Juliet Martinez

Developers met with community members on September 15 to update them on the Woods Village development planned on Monongahela Avenue between Chance Way and Tullymet Street. They heard feedback both in support of the new housing and reservations about removing trees and green space.

Developer Krish Pandya of Oak Moss Consulting said the complex will have 62 rental townhomes, of which most will be two bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms, with a small number of studio apartments and four or five three-bedroom units. Of those, 10% of the square footage will be set aside as affordable, though how many units that would be, and whether it would include retail space is not set.

Mr. Pandya said the definition of affordable for this development has yet to be determined. The current plans include \$4 million in spending on minority- and women-owned businesses, and a workforce development component, Mr. Pandya said. He said the choice to build onsite instead of using modular construction revolved around the workforce development and the prospective contracts with women- and minority-owned businesses.

Mr. Pandya said his team conducted a geotechnical workup of the site, soil testing and a grading plan. The



Neighborhood residents shared both support and concerns at the September 15 meeting on the Woods Village project in the auditorium of the Three Rivers Village School (the former YMCA) at 4713 Chatsworth Ave. Photo by Heather Mull

phase 1 environmental study did not find toxic substances like oil, asbestos or heavy metals that would have to be remediated, and that the Urban Redevelopment Authority has reviewed those reports.

The developers surveyed trees that would need to be removed from the wooded hillside. The city requires developers to re-plant an equivalent diameter of the trees they remove, so if a 12-inch diameter trunk is removed, the developer can re-plant

six two-inch-diameter trees to replace it. Mr. Pandya said there are now 131 inches of tree diameter on the site.

Mr. Pandya said he already sources his trees through Floriated Interpretations on Second Avenue and will continue to do so, as well as focusing on planting native species.

Points of contention

Cutting down trees and hillside stability were points of contention among attendees.

One participant referred to the city's Climate Action Plan, which sets the goal of increasing tree canopy coverage from 42% to 60% in Pittsburgh and halting tree canopy loss to development.

"For all that this is a fine proposal," he said, "Why are we here talking about replacing canopy forest with housing? Especially when we have acres and acres and acres of empty ground to develop first? Let's save our forests for last."

Another attendee said she grew up across the street from the former YMCA where the meeting took place and now lives on Gladstone Avenue. She said she worries that the hillside is not stable enough for the housing development, and that a landslide would affect her home uphill from the development.

Several of those present pointed out that the site for the proposed Woods Village development once had houses on it, and therefore, they said is a good place to build new housing. A participant who said she lives on Monongahela Street across

from the proposed site, said she frequently sees deer, turkeys and raccoons around her house, and fears the trees will come down every time there is a storm.

"I don't know what everybody's problem is with building houses for people to live," she said, "Not animals, people!"

Others praised the proposal for including two- and three-bedroom townhomes where families can live, saying there are not enough units of this size available to families in and around Hazelwood.

"This development is offering the opportunity for generations of families to stay," another neighborhood resident said. "It's a blessing that they're going to have two to three bedrooms because that is going to stabilize the community."

Another resident at the meeting countered that the affordable units will most likely be out of reach for most of the people in Greater Hazelwood, where the median income is under \$21,000, less than a quarter of the county median income.

She said removing the tree canopy for such a small number of units with doubtful affordability seemed ill-conceived, particularly as roughly 3,500 housing units are planned for Hazelwood Green.

"Most affordable housing is at 50, 60 or 80% [of area median income], so I can't see being excited about six units that probably won't serve people who live here," she said. "What are 65 units in a forest? The forest is the most important thing there."



Urban Redevelopment Authority project manager Donita Thomas (left) and developer Krish Pandya at the September 15 meeting on the Woods Village project in the auditorium of the Three Rivers Village School (the former YMCA) at 4713 Chatsworth Ave. Photo by Heather Mull

COMMUNITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Hazelwood Initiative September community meeting

Know your housing rights; Pitt Community Engagement Center; saving on your light bill

By Juliet Martinez

Megan Confer-Hammond from Fair Housing Partnership spoke to the September 13 Hazelwood Initiative community meeting about fair housing rights.

The 1968 Civil Rights Act set out protected categories that make it illegal for a landlord to deny housing to people on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion or sex. Landlords also cannot have different rules for tenants based on these factors. In 1988, the Fair Housing Amendments Act made it illegal to discriminate against prospective renters or buyers on the basis of family status or disability.

In 2021, a Housing and Urban Development office directive stated that sexual identity and gender orientation are also protected from housing discrimination.

Landlords sometimes try to discriminate against families with children by saying the unit is only for one person per bedroom. Ms. Confer-Hammond said in Allegheny County the number of people allowed to live in a unit depends on the square footage, not the number of bedrooms. The unit must have at least 70 square feet for the first occupant and at least 50 square feet for each occupant after that.

Ms. Confer-Hammond explained that housing discrimination is defined as an act of harm related to housing based on one's membership within a protected class. Without both committing an act of harm and the victim being a member of a protected class, a landlord, realtor or property owner's actions do not amount to discrimination.

If you are looking for housing and you suspect discrimination, contact Fair Housing Partnership, who will conduct a test to prove or disprove discrimination.

In housing discrimination testing, applicants who belong to a protected class and applicants who do not take turns applying for leases. They have the same credit history, income and other qualifications; the only difference is that one is disabled, a single parent, queer or trans, a person of color or in some way belongs to a protected class and the other does not. If the landlord favors applicants who do not belong to a protected class, it proves discrimination.

Become a housing discrimination tester by attending a training and a practice test. Testers are paid \$75 for each test. Visit fhp.org, call 412-391-2535 or email megan@fhp.org.

University of Pittsburgh Community Engagement Center

Keith Caldwell of the University of Pittsburgh Community Engagement Center described the center's three-part strategy. It makes a more than 20-year commitment to the neighborhoods, the work is shaped and led by a network of collaborators, and grounded by its location at Hazelwood Green.

Hazelwood is an important place in the larger life sciences corridor that universities, private interests and foundations are building in this region. The Pitt BioForge facility will be a biomanufacturing facility located in Hazelwood Green. It is expected to open in about four years.

Mr. Caldwell said it is important for the community to be involved and help guide the projects. Those who are interested in partnering, please email Keith Caldwell at kjc45@pitt.edu.

Save money on your light bill

Gina Nixon of CLEAResult told meeting participants about energy savings for low-income renters and homeowners. Eligible households must have the light bill in the occupant's name and be enrolled in a customer assistance program or meet income requirements.

Enrolled households learn about saving energy, receive energy-efficient LED light bulbs, night lights, smart power strips and much more.

Call 1-866-787-5237, option #1, or email duquesnelight@clearresult.com for more information. Office hours are from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Safe Halloween is coming up!

To support this neighborhood tradition, make checks payable to Hazelwood Initiative and write "Safe Halloween" on the memo line. Mail or drop off checks at 4901 Second Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15207. Donations of candy should be delivered to the same address by October 20.

Walk with Judah Scott for Down Syndrome awareness

Join Judah Scott, Teaira Collins and friends on October 2 from noon to 5 p.m. at 4501 Lytle Street on Hazelwood Green. Call 412-654-5359 or email lionofjudahenterprises@gmail.com for more information.

Light-Up Night

Greater Hazelwood's annual winter kickoff event will be on Decem-

ber 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. along Second Avenue. Donate Christmas decorations for the tree raffle at Carnegie Library Pittsburgh at 5006 Second Avenue. Schedule pickup by calling Edith Abeyta at 412-295-1795. Send or deliver monetary donations to Hazelwood Initiative, 4901 Second Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. Make checks payable to Hazelwood Initiative and write "Light-Up Night" on the memo line.

Trade Up

Paid stipend, free GED preparation courses, paid GED test fees, an introduction to construction trades pre-apprenticeship course and guaranteed entry to a paid apprenticeship program after completion.

To apply, call 412-350-9920 or email dlampmann@literacypittsburgh.org, or apply online at www.tradeuppittsburgh.org.

Connect with aging and disability resources through the PA Link

Get one-on-one help and support for day-to-day activities through medical and non-medical resources and services.

This service is for anyone of any age, physical or developmental disability, or ability to pay.

Contact the PA Link through the helpline, 1-800-753-8827, or visit www.aging.pa.gov/PALINK.

In memoriam: Robert V. Vavro Jr.

By Juliet Martinez



Photo courtesy of Lisa Vavro

Robert Vavro Jr., husband of Hazelwood Initiative founding board member Lisa Vavro, died on August 25 at the age of 64.

Mr. Vavro lived in Cochran, Pennsylvania, but came from Hazelwood. His parents, Carolyn Vavro and the late Robert Sr., were pillars of the community. The garden and gazebo at Second and Johnston avenues are named for Robert Sr., who diligently cared for them.

Robert Jr. grew up in Hazelwood and graduated from Central Catholic High School, according to his obituary. He joined the Carpenter's Union and worked for the City of Pittsburgh Division of Public Works for 31 years as a carpenter, foreman and supervisor. He loved travel, as well as hunting, fishing and skiing. He visited all 50 states and skied throughout Europe. At home, he enjoyed cooking and knew how to can and preserve jams and vegetables. One condolence message online said the writer looked forward to seeing him because he often gave out homemade jam as a gift.

Mr. Vavro's obituary and several online messages mentioned his friendliness and willingness to help others. In addition to his wife, Mr. Vavro is survived by his brothers, John J. Vavro and James E. (Mary) Vavro; his niece Carolyn Vavro and nephews Peter and Jay Barbor; his great-nieces Sheana and Julia McPaul and great-nephew Sean Bane. His two dogs, Duke and Kitz, will no doubt miss him as well. He is preceded in death by his father and his niece, Tricia Lynn Vavro.

Hazelwood Initiative and the Homepage staff offer our deepest condolences to Mr. Vavro's family and friends.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Key findings from the city controller’s audit of DOMI

By Junction Coalition

Pittsburgh City Controller Michael Lamb’s office released its performance audit of the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) on August 4. The 70-page document examines DOMI’s creation and functions, along with the department’s handling of projects identified as central to its mission.

In the executive summary section of the introductory letter signed by Controller Lamb, he notes that auditors could not assess DOMI’s progress toward some goals “due to DOMI and the previous mayoral administration being unable to furnish records” of DOMI’s early activities. But the audit has useful information for Pittsburghers. It is available online at https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/18831_DOMI_Final_Audit_w_ES_and_TOC.pdf.

Of particular interest to District 5 residents are the audit’s findings on traffic calming, distribution of resources, and the details of the Mon-Oakland Connector (MOC).

Traffic calming works, but is applied unevenly

In areas where DOMI has installed speed humps and other traffic-calming measures, the number of drivers exceeding the speed limit has been reduced on average by 38 percent. The audit includes maps that show where traffic calming has been put in place and where it is still absent. Figure 5 on page 31 shows a distribution map of speed humps across Pittsburgh’s nine council districts. Markers show speed humps in District 5 concentrated primarily in Squirrel Hill South.

District 5’s two ZIP codes highlight the disparity. A closer look using the Western Pennsylvania Re-

gional Data Center website shows that none of District 5’s 21 speed humps (18 shown, 3 too new to appear in the system) are in 15207, although dangerous roads in these neighborhoods require immediate and urgent attention.

Street selection for repaving should be data-driven

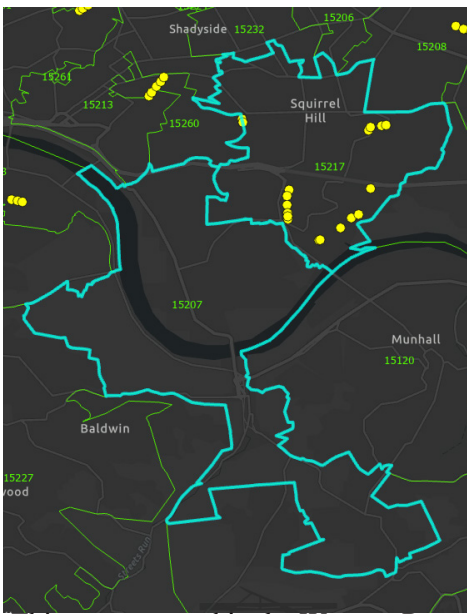
Wealthier neighborhoods also enjoy better street maintenance. Before 2018, resources for streets in the worst condition (scored on an index) were split into Department of Public Works (DPW) divisions. DOMI’s director changed the method in 2018 so that money is split evenly among council districts.

According to recommendation 10 of the audit, “Before concrete and accessible data existed, it was arguably a good idea to tie paving projects in with council districts to ensure equity across the city. However, we now have more comprehensive data, and as a result, more data-driven decisions can be made.”

The audit’s findings call for a return to dividing this work into DPW districts. This would encourage paving the worst streets first instead of “dividing the budget by political boundaries” (page 41). The audit also suggests avoiding over-reliance on calls to the city’s 311 system for input, which leads to a “squeaky wheel” approach that can elevate neighborhoods with many 311 callers above those most in need.

The MOC has deeper problems than its name

Although the audit points out DOMI’s lack of transparency, its discussion of the MOC relies on DOMI’s characterization of the project. As a result, the audit contains several inaccuracies.



This map, created in the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center, shows District 5 outlined in blue with an additional blue line marking the border between its two ZIP codes. Speed humps, shown as yellow dots, are only in 15217. Source: www.wprdc.org. Accessed September 4, 2022

On page 24 it states, "The [MOC] project would also address flooding and stormwater issues and include the implementation of green infrastructure." However, the MOC has always been a separate project from the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority’s (PWSA’s) Four Mile Run Stormwater Project. PWSA’s project received no funding until nearly two years after the MOC was announced. In fact, the original grant for the MOC sought by the city and its partners in 2015 stated in its guidelines that funding could only be used for the shuttle road - not to fix flooding in the area.

The audit continues, "The consensus from the second public meeting found citizens selected electric scooters, electric bike-share systems, and electric shuttles to be the ideal solutions." This statement was not sourced but seems to have come directly from DOMI. As the audit later notes, the MOC lacked community support from the beginning — partly because the project’s estimated \$23 million budget should instead go to infrastructure needs outlined in the community-generated plan, Our Money, Our Solutions.

Controller Lamb’s office makes no recommendations concerning the MOC. Their only finding is as follows: “The auditors found that multiple names for this shuttle program were used to reference it. This causes confusion to the public. For example, Mon-Oakland Shuttle, Mon-Oakland Connector Shuttle or just Mon-Oakland Connector were found to be used interchangeably.”

Even so, Controller Lamb stated in a May 27 email that the audit’s

review of the MOC helped inform Mayor Gainey’s decision to end the unpopular project.

Read this article with links at www.junctioncoalition.org/2022/09/08/key-findings-from-pittsburgh-city-controllers-audit-of-domi/.



Photo by Jamison Fielding

Greenfield youth earns Eagle Scout through church loft renovation

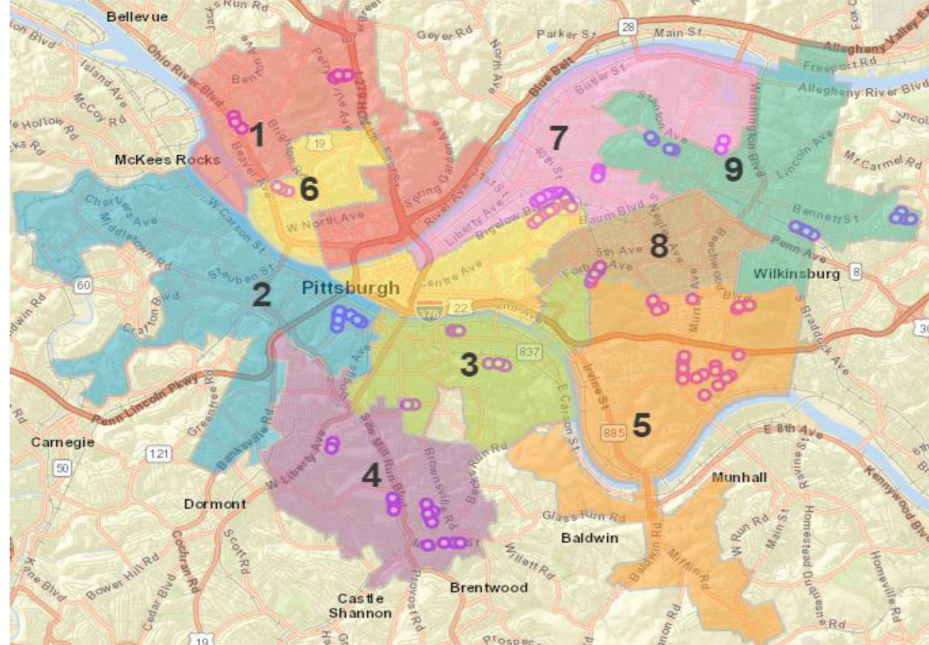
By Ross O’Connell

Owen Fielding of Greenfield earned Boy Scouting’s highest rank when he successfully completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on July 17, 2022. In partnership with the Third Presbyterian Church in Shadyside, Fielding led a team of youth and adult volunteers to renovate the church’s loft, including sanding and painting the walls and cleaning the stonework. The loft is now a more pleasant space for the groups that use it, including the church’s youth group.

A recent graduate of Pittsburgh CAPA school, Fielding is pursuing a degree in secondary education, with a focus on social studies. He credits Scouting with helping him grow both as a leader and as a teacher.

Getting a young person involved in Scouting is as simple as logging on to beascout.scouting.org.

FIGURE 5
Map of DOMI’s Speed Humps Installed per Council District



Source: Information from DOMI’s Municipal Traffic Engineer

31ST WARD NEWS

Highlights from the September 13 31st Ward Community Action Group meeting

By Luke Schaming

Veterans' Banners

State Rep. Nate Piscittano is involved and helping us acquire state grant funding to pay for the banners.

The state grant was awarded to the city of Pittsburgh, so we're working with the city on what funding we can receive.

Community Cleanup

Our fall cleanup will be on Saturday October 15, starting at 10 a.m. and finishing up around noon. Meet at either McBride Park or the Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church.

Spaghetti Dinner

November 8 is election day! Enjoy a take-out spaghetti dinner at the Presbyterian Church from 4-7 p.m.

Veterans' Breakfast

The Presbyterian Church is hosting its free veterans' breakfast on November 12 at 9 a.m. This is free for all veterans and their spouses or caregivers. Reservations are required, please contact the church to register (see flyer below).

Holiday Events

We are starting to plan for our annual Santa Trolley Ride on December 3, and annual holiday parade on December 10.

For more information, and to help plan or join in any events, please contact the 31st Ward Community Action Group via our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/217983421573389>.

The 31st Ward Community Action Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church.

31ST WARD EVENTS

AT LINCOLN PLACE PRESBYTERIAN

1202 Muldowney
Avenue,
Pittsburgh 15207

Call 412-461-3377 or
412-462-6148 for
information

Senior Lunch

Come enjoy lunch
with friends at
noon on the first
and third Tuesdays
of every month.



Annual spaghetti dinner

Spaghetti, salad,
bread and cake

*We make the best
spaghetti around!*

\$10.00, take-out only

November 8, 2022,
4-7 p.m.



Annual Fall Clean-up

Saturday, Oct 15th



Annual Free Veteran's Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

*A time to honor those
who served so that we
may be free*

All veterans, spouses
and caregivers are
welcome.

November 12, 2022,
9 a.m.

Call 412-462-6148 to
make a reservation
by November 9



Coming this fall and winter:

Thanksgiving dinner
for seniors, Tuesday,
November 15

Annual Santa's Trolley
Ride, Saturday,
December 3rd

2nd Annual Holiday
Parade, Saturday,
December 10th



*Find further
information on the
31st Ward
Community Action
Group Facebook
page.*

AUTUMN IN HAZELWOOD

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FOLLOWING FREE EVENTS!

ARTS ON THE PORCH | OCTOBER 1

3RD ANNUAL FALL MINIFEST | OCTOBER 29

HOLIDAY PORTRAIT FAIR | NOVEMBER 10

SIPS & CRAFTS | NOVEMBER 18

SPIRITS & SNOW | DECEMBER 10



FOR ALL EVENT DETAILS, CHECK:
WWW.HAZELWOODLOCAL.EVENTBRITE.COM

OCTOBER MEETING

COME, MEET, & TALK WITH YOUR
NEIGHBORS & POLICE ABOUT
PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEN: THURSDAY, OCT. 20 AT 6:30 PM

WHERE: THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
CENTER, ROOM 318

5738 FORBES AVE., PGH, PA 15217

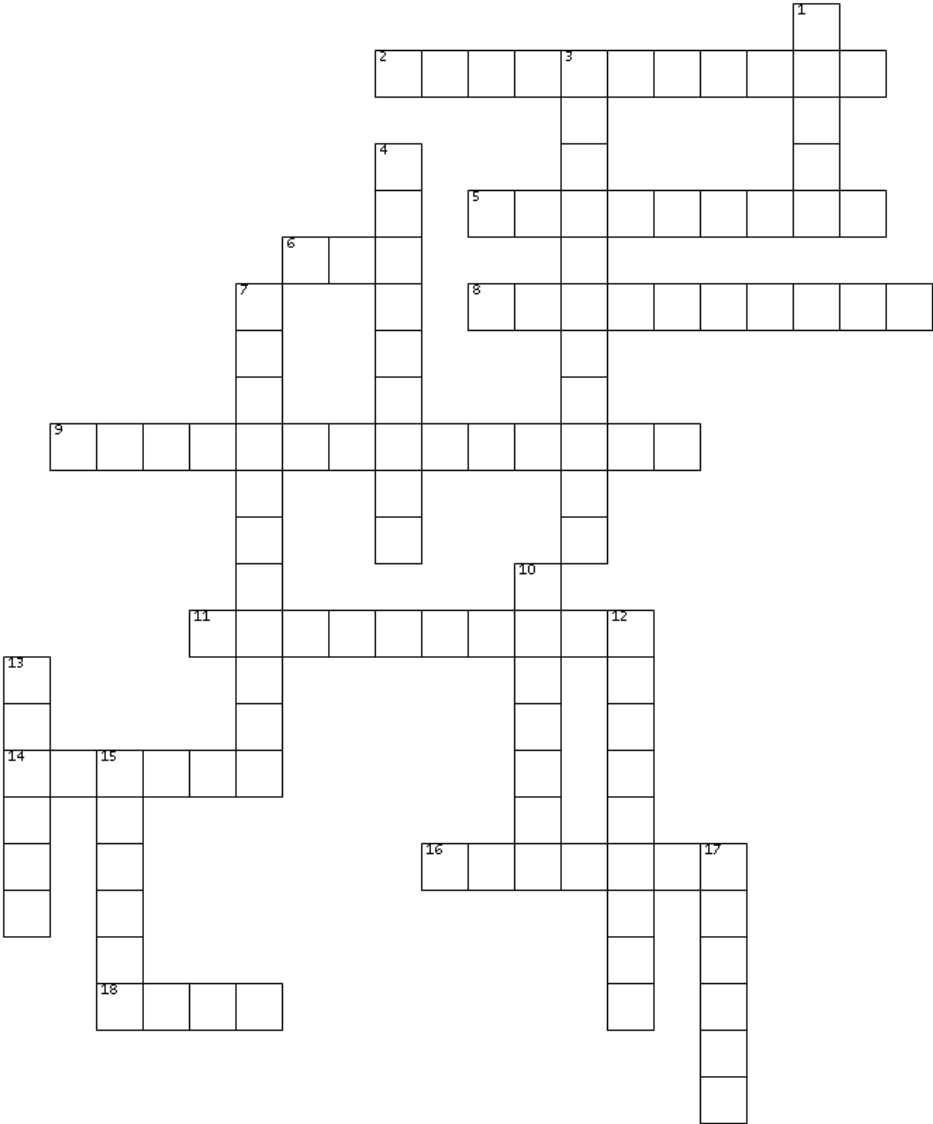
Presented by City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police
Sponsored and Hosted by The Zone 4 Public
Safety Council

<https://www.facebook.com/Zone4PublicSafety>



AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Crossword puzzle



ACROSS

2. Jim McCue points out that nitrous oxide, a.k.a. _____ is a greenhouse gas.

5. Republican nominee Eugene Bokor served in this role in the 31st Ward Community Action Group.

6. Bob Vavro Jr. was known for giving this homemade treat as a gift.

8. According to the map on page 14, 15207 ZIP code has none of these.

9. If a landlord harms a tenant because the tenant is a member of a protected class, it is this.

11. Rep. Summer Lee participated in a training for first _____.

14. This anti-overdose drug should be in everyone's first aid kit.

16. Deer need to eat, and where better than these when the parks aren't enough.

18. A large number of people with student loans received forgiveness for some or all of their _____ in September.

DOWN

1. Owen Fielding of Greenfield earned this rank in scouting in July.

3. Between Hazelwood Initiative and Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, half of the homes in Hazelwood have had help making these.

4. Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran had its _____ day on August 27.

7. Democratic nominee Barb Warwick comes from here.

10. Maggie Bogdanich from Three Rivers Village School says kids can learn without one of these.

12. This dinner will be served at Lincoln Place Presbyterian on November 8.

13. Pittsburgh's Climate Action Plan has a goal to increase the tree _____ from 42 to 60%.

15. In Pennsylvania many people with a criminal _____ are allowed to vote.

17. Sen. Jay Costa praised the 2022-2023 state budget for boosting community _____ measures.



Six-word stories and poems

Each month, Homepage readers submit clever and creative six-word stories and poems. Some imaginative readers also submit prompts for the following month.

We invite you to try your hand at this game of literary brevity. There are no wrong answers, just wrong word counts! Here we go...

A favorite scary movie
I must insist, it's the Exorcist
Janice O'Toole

A scary movie
Not that groovy
Gloria Nagy

I couldn't eat
After Alien leaped
MaryAnn Majcher

Chainsaws
Not scary,
But inbreeding is.
Adam Rohe

Nature in autumn
Leaf colors bold, red, rust, gold
Janice O'Toole

Autumn leaves falling
Chilly weather calling
Gloria Nagy

Air so crisp
Walking very brisk
MaryAnn Majcher

Crisp mornings,
Crunchy leaves,
Crackling fire.
Adam Rohe

A beloved elder
Auntie my love, in heaven above
Janice O'Toole

Healthy, wealthy, wise
Sweet Granny buys
Gloria Nagy

Neighborhood patriarch
Walks dog in park
MaryAnn Majcher

Pops -
The talk
We would have
Adam Rohe

Prompts for November:

- New winter boots
- Ancestors
- Community connections

Please submit your six-word poems, stories and prompts by October 14 to editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org.

STR8TS

Medium

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

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.

2	1		4	5
6	4	5	3	2
4	5		2	1
4	3	6	2	1
3	5	2	1	4
2	1	3		

SUDOKU

Medium

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

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 for Sudoku and 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.



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9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Meal Delivery Runners
M-F
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

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See PUZZLE KEYS on Page 19

SCHOOLS

Self-directed education, part 2: Structure and self-direction

By Maggie Bogdanich and Jason White-Wiedow

Thanks for continuing to read our series on self-directed learning. This time we want to look at two questions that are often the first to come to mind when someone discovers self-directed education.

How do kids learn if there is no curriculum or teacher to guide the process?

The idea of learning, especially when it comes to kids, has become associated with classroom learning with a teacher, curriculum, and textbooks. That is certainly a valid way to obtain knowledge and one that works for many. However, it is far from the only way. Humans are hardwired to learn. We are born curious and naturally want to learn about ourselves, the culture we are born into and the world around us.

At Three Rivers Village School, we trust that curiosity. If a person is in a supportive environment with plenty of time and space, this curiosity will continue to flourish. The generous availability of time and space is a central pillar of a self-directed environment. Play, exploration, navigating relationships and social dynamics, independent study, apprenticeships, community service in and out of school, and participating in school operations are just a few of the most common ways students learn here. The learning is *Humans are hardwired to learn. We are born curious and naturally want to learn about ourselves, the culture we are born into and the world outside of that.*

mostly experiential and tends to be personally meaningful because it is driven by innate curiosity along a self-chosen path of exploration. This kind of intrinsically motivated activity is both the easiest and most effective way for people of all ages to learn.

What do they learn? The short answer? Almost anything! Perhaps the most fundamental subject students learn about is who they are. Building off that, they learn what is and isn't interesting to



Three Rivers Village School students having fun on a visit to see the Allegheny GoatScape goats in the Hazelwood greenway. Photo by Jason White-Wiedow

them. From there, they learn how to pursue those interests as well as how to recognize and motivate themselves to meet responsibilities to their communities, their friends and themselves.

The things most kids are practicing and learning every single day are essential life skills such as: problem solving, critical thinking, communication, decision making, creative thinking, interpersonal relationship care, empathy and stress coping mechanisms. These kinds of essential life skills create a solid foundation for acquiring any kind of knowledge and the ability to integrate it into their daily lives.

There are many times in everyone's life where they need to figure out what it is they want to do. Sometimes it's big decisions, like choosing a place to go to college, a place to live, or a career path to take. Other times the decisions seem simpler, like which friends to spend time with or which book to read or YouTube video to watch.

Of course, those bigger decisions are the ones that make up our lives. Self-directed students, instead of following directions for most of their day, have copious amounts of time and lots of opportunities to practice for the big decisions by making lots of simple choices, like whether to play tag or ride a scooter. *Maggie Bogdanich is a staff member at Three Rivers Village School. All schools in The Homepage cir-*

culuation area are invited to share news, event announcements, and admissions and calendar information with the community each month. If you would like to submit a school update, email jmartinez@hazelwoodinitiative.org. See page 4 for submission guidelines.

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Community Manager

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1 person.....	\$33,200
2 person.....	\$37,950

COMMUNITY VOICES

Holy Cross is here for you every day

By Vicar David L. Wenndt

We are now several weeks past the annual Hazelwood Community Day, which Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel hosted on August 27. The neighborhood and church came together to have a fun day with games and prizes and lots of food. And we are looking forward to the Holy Cross Christmas Toy Drive where we provide not only toys, but coats, boots, gloves and other helpful items to ensure that the children of the neighborhood have a fun and merry Christmas.

There are no special events from September to November. It can feel like this is the slow time of year. But the love Holy Cross has for you, and our work in the community, never stops. We are here to help every day.

Any time a member or volunteer is at the church, they are willing to help neighbors with their food or clothing needs. Food distribution is every other Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., but you can often find fresh produce and other foods on the tables outside. Please take what you need whenever it's available.

We also have community dinners every first and third Sunday starting at 4 p.m.; let our fantastic volunteers cook you a delicious hot meal!

But we are here to care for more than just your physical needs. We are also here for your spiritual needs.

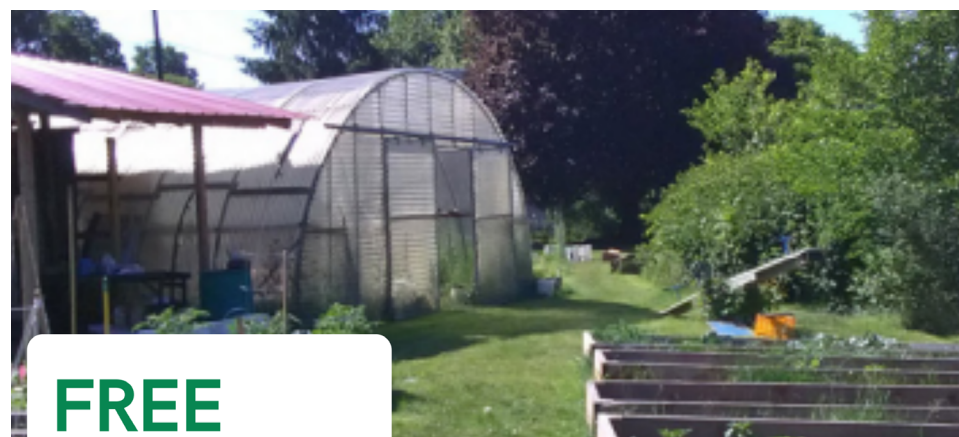
All are welcome to join us for services on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and morning prayers at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

The Way of the Cross devotional service is every Friday at noon, and Bible studies are Wednesdays at noon and Sundays at 11 a.m.

If you do not want to attend anything formal and are looking for prayer or someone to talk to, I am at the church six days a week. Stop me on the street any time! I would be happy to talk or pray with you.

We are in between big events here at Holy Cross, but we are still open and still here to help and love our community. We look forward to seeing each and every one of the amazing people in Hazelwood!

David L. Wenndt is vicar at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel in Hazelwood.



FREE Garden Space Available!

*Grow food for
yourself, your family
and friends!*

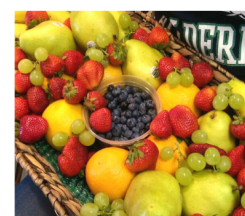
The Hazelwood Urban Ag Team serves to facilitate free access to land for growing food. We have options to suit many needs and alternatives, from a single garden bed to help with getting vacant lots from the City.

Sign up at:
[https://
bit.ly/3R8rMZe](https://bit.ly/3R8rMZe)

Contact Matt Peters for more information,
[gardens@
hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org)

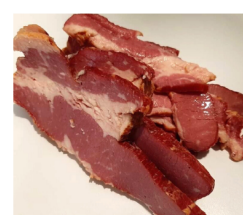


Scenes from the August 27 Hazelwood Community Day at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel. Photos by Douglas Spittel



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- FRESH SALADS/CUT FRUIT
- DELI MEATS & CHEESES

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COMMUNITY VOICES

The dance of life



Screenshot from 2017 video titled Nurturing life in Hazelwood with Everybody’s Gardens. <https://tinyurl.com/everybodysgarden-video>

By Jim McCue

Even in this time of explosive change, there is nothing to fear. Though it might not seem so, there are, I think, more good things happening on Earth than bad. Fear of change, including fear of death, is what causes pain.

There IS, however, a lot to be concerned about. Climate change, which includes both global warming and ozone layer damage, is continuing at an even faster rate. And nitrous oxide ("laughing gas", which used to be used as an anesthetic) is now being caused by these huge industrial scale farming operations as a by-product. It is the nitrogen or protein plant food that massive plantings of corn, for instance, which need a lot of it. It not only destroys the vital microbial life in the soil but causes damage to the ozone layer.

Explosive or quantum change does not go linearly - 1, 2, 3, 4..., but 1, 2, 4, 8... If you have floating water

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Albert Einstein

plants such as water hyacinth or water lettuce growing on a pond, which, say, reproduce one per day, the pond would be completely covered one day after it's half full. That's where we are today. It's as if we're driving toward a cliff and, instead of hitting the brakes, we're speeding up.

The Amazon jungle, called "the lungs of the Earth" because of the amount of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide the trees and other plants there consume and the oxygen they produce, are being destroyed to grow soybeans and corn mostly for cattle feed and lumber. We *Homo sapiens*, for our own health and for the health of the environment, need to eat less meat.

We are all part of the human family. We are not separate from each other. Fear causes the illusion of separation. Just as a bird can fly from one garden to another, there are no real separations between countries. We are at the end of one age and the beginning of another.

Read more from Jim McCue at <http://bioeverything.blogspot.com>.

Puzzle keys

2 L A U G H I N G G A S

4 E

5 T R E A S U R E R

6 J A M

7 F O U N D I N G

8 S P E E D B U M P S

9 D I S C R I M I N A T I O N

10 T A P

11 R E S P O N D E R S

12 C A P

13 C A N A R C A N

14 O P I C

15 E C

16 G A R D E N S

17 T A F E T Y

18 D E B T

Str8ts Solution

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

Sudoku Solution

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

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- Brad Rosen Landscaping.....(412) 521-4330
- Christian Cleaning Services.....(412) 781-5989
- Colwell Automotive.....(412) 422-2658
- Combo Kitchen.....(412) 462-1568
- Community Kitchen Pittsburgh.....(412) 246-4736
- Dylamato’s Market.....(412) 521-1351
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- Elmer Herman Funeral Home.....(412) 521-2768
- Fitzhenry Contracting.....(412) 496-3892
- Floriated Interpretations.....(412) 607-7886
- General Contractor, Mike Lignini.....(412) 600-1969
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- Lytle Café.....(412) 421-4881
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- Phyl’s Cleaning and Décor.....(412) 708-3586
- The Pittsburgh Stop.....(412) 969-7488
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- Reneé Roma Personal Training.....(412) 443-6957
- Rite Aid.....(412) 421-6948
- Ron's Electric.....(412) 727-8211
- Smuts Brothers Debris Removal.....(412) 512-7739
- We Care Chiropractic.....(412) 521-8890
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COMMUNITY VOICES

Student loan forgiveness moves the needle for all to advance, but more needs to be done to create a level playing field for all

By State Rep. Darisha Parker (D-Philadelphia), State Rep. Donna Bullock (D-Philadelphia) and State Rep. Morgan Cephas (D-Philadelphia)

If you are complaining about your tax dollars paying off someone else’s student loan debt, or proudly declaring that you worked hard to pay your own student loan debt, or if you were silent when billions of tax dollars paid off the debt of big corporations under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), have a seat. If you were fortunate enough to have family or someone who could save or even scrape together money for your higher education costs, by all means, count your blessings. You are not begrudged that good fortune.

However, not everyone was or is in that same position.

According to the Federal Reserve, the gender and racial wealth gap is significant. The median wealth of white families is 10 times that of Black families and more than eight times that of Latinx families. A white man’s median net worth is 100 times higher than a Black woman’s. Yes, there is a cost to closing the gender-racial wealth gap. But the upside is huge: Black women contrib-

uting to their communities through home ownership, purchasing goods and services, and on and on. So, it stands to reason, Black women will benefit the most from President Joe Biden’s cancellation of student loan debt, which may explain some of this backlash. Historically, Black women have been left out of the higher education game, first by blatant discrimination and now by cost. This gender-racial wealth gap affects everyone. It affects entire communities. But at its core, it has

Women and people of color are juggling higher student loan debts, lower paying jobs and other gender and race disparities.

economic impacts on a Black woman’s financial security, health, and civic engagement on many levels. Women hold two-thirds of the nation’s student loan debt, and Black women have the highest average total undergraduate and graduate loan debt. Women and people of color are juggling higher student loan debts, lower paying jobs and other gender and race disparities. For these and many borrowers, the cancellation of \$10,000 of debt is a great start, but it doesn’t go far enough. Rather than complain about who’s eligible

and who’s not, let’s work together to maximize student loan relief. Where was the outrage? Interestingly, a 2021 NBC news article reported that a publicly traded company in Texas took a PPP loan, quadrupled its earnings, doubled the pay of its top three executives, then had its \$2.2 million PPP loan forgiven. We’re not sure where the outrage was for that egregious step of greed; surely at the time, it was somewhere. But it makes the latest

negative chatter on the president’s student loan forgiveness mind boggling. Especially, as we’ve pointed out, taxpayers are footing that bill for PPP loans. For Black women in particular, the alleviation of a small bit of student loan debt can be the difference between investing in a home, paying for childcare, starting a business, saving for retirement - or not. These women often came from families whose household income was under \$30,000 a year. Certainly no one was saving for college. These

families are barely getting by day to day. There is nothing extra left. The president’s reprieve is overdue, and folks are grateful, but it still comes up short. This should be the first step in making college affordable for everyone, not just a one-time deal. According to White House reports, nearly 90% of relief dollars will go to borrowers earning less than \$75,000 per year. Also, under the president’s proposed changes to income-based repayment, the average borrower will save over \$1,000 per year on loan payments, and the typical college borrower will see their loan payments cut in half. There are folks who seem to think we can lavish support on corporate America but when it comes to everyday citizens, it’s a no-go. Debt relief benefits a whole group in the population that has been left behind on an American dream that others have enjoyed. Maybe it is hard for some to watch because it means a true leveling of the field...one that is long overdue. Rep. Darisha Parker is the chair of the subcommittee on women and girls of color. Rep. Donna Bullock is the chair of the PA Legislative Black Caucus. Rep. Morgan Cephas is co-chair of the women’s health caucus.

ENVIRONMENT

Deer - Continued from Front Page

all or almost all of their plants devoured by deer,” she wrote in September. “I had to put a lot of mesh around my tomato plants to get the deer to stop chomping on them, and fortunately it worked.” Ms. Feingold described deer invading residential yards to the point that some people build tall fences while others abandon gardening for flowers and vegetables altogether. In August, CBS Pittsburgh reported that between 80 and 150 deer live in nearby Schenley Park. University of Pittsburgh professor Walter Carson has studied deer in the parks for decades. He told CBS that deer populations have gone un-

The number one way – really the only way – is through legalized hunting. Seth Mesoras

checked by predators or population control measures. The damage to

Schenley, Riverview and Frick parks and others like them will eventually be irreversible. Naturalist Kate St. John told CBS that the main plants left in Schenley park are invasives like saltgrass and grapevines that do not allow other plants deer forage on to grow. "I don't know how long it will take for them to eat this to the point that there is nothing for them to eat, but that day will come, and they will either die or leave or both," Ms. St. John told CBS.

Deer as a factor in landslides

When I spoke with Seth Mesoras of the Pennsylvania State Game Commission, he said the deer suffer most because there isn’t enough food for a large population, so some of them starve. Their hunger can make slopes more landslide prone. “The problem with deer overpopulation is [that] they’re browsers,” the information and education supervisor for the southwest region told me when we spoke in September. “They’ll eat all the small trees and over time you’ll have no under-

story coming up. If you have steep hillsides, it can contribute to soil destabilization over time.”

OH DEER!

DID YOU KNOW...?

A male deer is called a buck; a female is called a doe.

Deer eat 5-10 pounds of food daily.

Deer populations can double in 2-3 years.

Most deer-vehicle crashes happen on Sunday nights in autumn.

Source: <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/>



He said the lack of root structure to hold the soil in place is one of several factors that can make landslides

I don't know how long it will take for them to eat... to the point that there is nothing for them to eat, but that day will come. Kate St. John

more of a risk. And there is only one way to address deer overpopulation. “The number one way – really the only way – is through legalized hunting,” he said. Mr. Mesoras said he has set up archery hunts in municipalities and stressed that as long as a hunter is following all state hunting laws, in addition to any hunting limitations set by property owners, it is both legal and desirable to hunt deer. He said the alternative is killing the deer through a practice called culling. “Otherwise culling, where you go in and kill the deer, nobody likes to see that,” he said.