



Barb Warwick sworn in as District 5 council member



District 5 councilperson Barb Warwick takes the oath of office surrounded by her family. Photo by Heather Mull

By Juliet Martinez

District 5 has a council member again. On December 12, Pittsburgh’s City Council chamber filled with neighbors, supporters and elected officials to cheer for the swearing-in of council’s newest member, Barbara Greenfield Warwick.

After taking the oath of office surrounded by her husband and four children, Councilperson Warwick thanked Corey O’Connor, who held the seat for 12 years before becoming the Allegheny County Controller in July.

She thanked elected officials, activists and neighborhood leaders

who sat down with her during the six-year fight to stop the Mon-Oakland Connector project.

Ms. Warwick listed more current community needs, including a supermarket in Hazelwood, a playground at Greenfield School and a rec center in the 31st ward.

“We need traffic calming, accessible sidewalks and better public transit so people can get to work and school, and wherever they need to be safely and quickly without getting in a car,” she added.

The self-described “woman from The Run” went on to talk about the need for affordable housing and family-sustaining jobs for people

no matter their education level, as well as the need to develop Hazelwood Green in a way that benefits the whole community.

Ms. Warwick said since winning the special election on November 8, she has been meeting with the Gainey administration, staff, the budget team and others.

She touted accomplishments from her short time as the council-member elect, including distributing more than \$40,000 in Community First grants and securing a commitment from Department of Mobility and Infrastructure director Kim Lucas for traffic calming on upper Hazelwood Avenue.

Ms. Warwick promised to serve all of District 5, which she described as a microcosm of the city.



Newly sworn in District 5 Councilwoman Barb Warwick with Allegheny County Controller Corey O'Connor. Photo by Heather Mull

See COUNCIL, Page 5

Local filmmakers and historian work to keep ‘Hazelwood Alive’

By Joshua Axelrod

The Hazelwood of JaQuay Edward Carter’s youth was a far cry from the bustling thoroughfare his parents described to him.

Sure, he got to experience some of the mom-and-pop shops that used to line the streets of Hazelwood. But he mostly knew it as “an economically depressed town” that was devastated when the local mill shut down.

Mr. Carter is a historian, interpretative specialist and community outreach coordinator for local cultural nonprofit Rivers of Steel, and the founder of the Greater Hazelwood Historical Society of Pittsburgh. He started the latter organization in January 2018 because, he said, “There was such a need for the preservation of Hazelwood’s history.”

Mr. Carter teamed up two years ago with Pittsburgh-based production company Malhari Media to create a film chronicling his efforts to keep Hazelwood’s past fresh in the mind of Steel City residents. The fi-

See HAZELWOOD, Page 5

Industrial Arts Workshop's no-cost teen metalworking program teaches much more than welding

By Juliet Martinez

On a metal divider in the Industrial Arts Workshop studio in Hazelwood, someone has written this message in chalk, “Just for today, I will be kind and compassionate to myself and others. I am grateful for today. I am enough.”

Industrial Arts Workshop (IAW) teaches welding to teens, but their program goes far beyond introducing young people to a potentially lucrative career in the trades. Executive director Tim Kaulen told me on a recent visit to the studio at 5434 Herbert Way that their approach

comprises three core and complementary elements: technical skills, soft skills and mindfulness.



Hannah George, 15, of Mt. Lebanon, gears up for an afternoon of welding. Photo by Murphy Moschetta

A systematic approach

In the past year, Mr. Kaulen has expanded the teaching and administrative staff at IAW and adopted a welding curriculum that leads students through a series of welds taught on industry standards. They can track their progress, and if they are hired or seeking further training, they can say exactly what they know how to do.

This systematic approach is working for 16-year-old Leila Garcia of Reserve Township, who joined the afterschool program last fall. Mr.

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The Homepage

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

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.

Sonya Tilghman, Executive Director (she/her)
Juliet Martinez, Managing Editor (she/they)
Sarah Kanar, Designer and Ad Specialist (she/her)

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

Submissions

Email letters, essays, photos and story ideas to editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org. The deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. on the second Friday of each month for the following month's issue. See page 4 for complete submission guidelines.

The Homepage reserves the right to decide what content is appropriate for publication and may edit submissions for length, grammar, punctuation or clarity.

The opinions expressed, whether by community contributors or sponsors, do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or Hazelwood Initiative, Inc.

Contributors

Ziggy Edwards (Writing and proofreading)
Ray Gerard (Photography)
Heather Mull (Photography)



PUBLISHER'S PAGE

Here's to a peaceful and prosperous 2023



Photo by Sarah Kanar

By Juliet Martinez

Welcome to 2023! I'm excited to start a new year as managing editor of your community newspaper. This position gives me an excellent view of the exciting things happening in The Homepage circulation area.

Back in February, Hazelwood, Greenfield and Four Mile Run residents cheered the end of the Mon-Oakland Connector shuttle road plan. One of those residents, Barb Warwick, now represents all of District 5 on City Council.

Early last year, a countywide solar co-op was raising money to give free solar panels to moderate- and low-income households. Now the co-op has become the largest in the state. It broke records for contracts signed and raised enough money to give free solar panels to seven Hazelwood homeowners.

Hazelwood Café moved in at Second and Tipton avenues. Owner Dasawn Gray is has made it a cozy place to get together with a friend, have a coffee and doughnut and buy from local artisans.

In July, after four years of legal battles and two years of pandemic delays, work began to create 51 new rental housing units in the former Gladstone School. In coming weeks, Hazelwood Initiative will host a meeting to help orient potential tenants to the ins and outs of applying to live there.

Here in The Homepage, I've been fortunate to have many wonderful contributors who shared their creativity and hard work. Ziggy Edwards wrote several excellent articles last year, in addition to proofreading every issue of the paper. Heather Mull and Ray Gerard both generously donated their gorgeous photographs to make the paper more interesting and informative.

The wonderful Erika Johnson was our advice columnist before starting work on her new EP (see Page 10) Andrea Coleman kept neighborhood connections strong in her "Straight Outta Hazelwood" profiles. Jim McCue faithfully and passionately urged us to act to slow climate change. Matt Peters shared his gardening knowledge and Vicar David Wennedt sent out messages of faith. Three Rivers Village School staff gave us a peek inside a unique kind of school. And the six-word poets and storytellers' creations made me smile every month.

I look forward to hearing and seeing more from all of you throughout 2023.

Who are the neighborhood heroes who need to be celebrated? What are the neighborhood problems that nobody seems interested in fixing? How is your community showing, once again, how tough, creative and kind Pittsburghers can be? I want to hear about it all.

Wishing you a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2023,

Juliet Martinez,
Managing Editor

Meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month!

GREATER HAZELWOOD

HYBRID COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday Jan. 10th 6pm - 8pm

TOPICS & SPEAKERS

In Person Option

In person at Community Kitchen Pittsburgh
107 Flowers Ave., 2nd floor - Masks encouraged

- **Introducing the Mon Water Project** - A new neighborhood collaborative focused on water quality and flood prevention led by Annie Quinn
- **Reconnecting Hazelwood to Duck Hollow** - Friends of the Riverfront
- **Update on Gladstone Residences** - Sonya Tilghman, Hazelwood Initiative
- **Hazelwood Initiative Updates**
- **Community Announcements**

Drawing for \$25 gift cards at the end of the 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

 HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE
GROWING TOGETHER

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 UTILITIES

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>.

URA HOUSING SERVICES

Help in a housing crisis: Up to \$3,000 for renters, up to \$6,000 for homeowners
Down payment assistance: \$5,000-7,5000 0% loans

Accessibility home improvements: Up to \$10,000 for homeowners, up to \$5,000 per unit for landlords

Deferred second mortgage: 0% mortgage that you pay back when you sell your house

Fix up your façade: Up to \$8,000 in matching grant funds for façade improvement.

Free housing legal help:

Tenant Services: Mediation, limited legal consultation, full legal representation

Homeowner Services: Tangled title, foreclosure prevention

English: (412) 255-6600, option 1
Other languages: (412) 530-5244

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.

CATAPULT

Emergency resources and support
Peer counseling
Financial education
Asset building
Homebuying assistance
Homeownership support
Visit catapultpittsburgh.org/programs, call (412) 623-9596 or email info@catapultpittsburgh.org.

WAVE HOUSING PROGRAMS

Mortgage tax relief
Pre-homeownership counseling
Eviction prevention
Foreclosure prevention
Credit and debt counseling
Call (412) 573-9217.

NEIGHBORWORKS W. PA

Down-payment assistance: Standard fixed-rate second mortgage to eligible first-time homeowners.
Visit www.neighborworkswpa.org/homebuyerhelp, call (412) 281-9773 or email lending@neighborworkspa.org.

PWSA BILL ASSISTANCE

Apply at <https://www.pgh2o.com/>. Call (412) 255-2457 or email cares@pgh2o.com.

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/>.

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.

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.

ALLEGHENY LINK

Contact Allegheny Link for person-centered resource navigation to promote independence, dignity and quality of life, as well as fair, equal and streamlined access to homeless services.

Allegheny Link has resources for those who are disabled, elderly, unhoused, at risk of homelessness, pregnant or with a child under age 6. Call (866) 730-2368 between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., deaf and hard-of-hearing email alleghenylink@alleghenycounty.us or visit One Smithfield St., 15222 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

FOOD AND CLOTHING

FISHES AND LOAVES

COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES

131 E. Elizabeth St., 15207
Meals on Wheels: Monday-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-Friday 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Emergency food boxes: Pick up at Spartan Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday or home delivery within a 15-mile radius. Call to arrange weekend service.

Grocery-buying assistance

Phone: (412) 499-4313

HAZELWOOD YMCA FOOD PANTRY

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

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN CHAPEL OF HAZELWOOD

5319 Second Ave., 15207
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

LINCOLN PLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1202 Muldowney Ave., 15207
Food pantry on the third Saturday of each month from 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Sunday worship at 10 a.m.
(412) 461-3377

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

AL-ANON

Al-Anon is a source for finding help and hope if you are living with alcoholism. If you have been affected by someone's drinking and would like to learn about the relief that Al-Anon offers, please join us. We meet every Thursday @ St. Rosalia Social Hall in Greenfield (please use the entrance on Lydia St.) from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you are concerned about the drinking problems of someone you care about, please plan to attend. Help is here for you.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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@aucofpggh.org for more information.

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

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

CHURCHES

THE CHURCH AT MON RIVER
3929 Coleman St., 15207
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.com

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 CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
5604 Interboro Ave., 15207
(412) 462-2524
nazlp@aol.com

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: www.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

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Tell your postal carrier that you want to get your Homepage every single month without fail!

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If you need extra copies of The Homepage or yours was not delivered, pick them up at Hazelwood Initiative, 4901 2nd Ave., Second Floor, 15207, 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.

Hazelwood

Continued from Front Page

nal product, a 15-minute documentary called “Hazelwood Alive,” was screened on December 10 at Hazelwood’s First Hungarian Reformed Church of Pittsburgh.

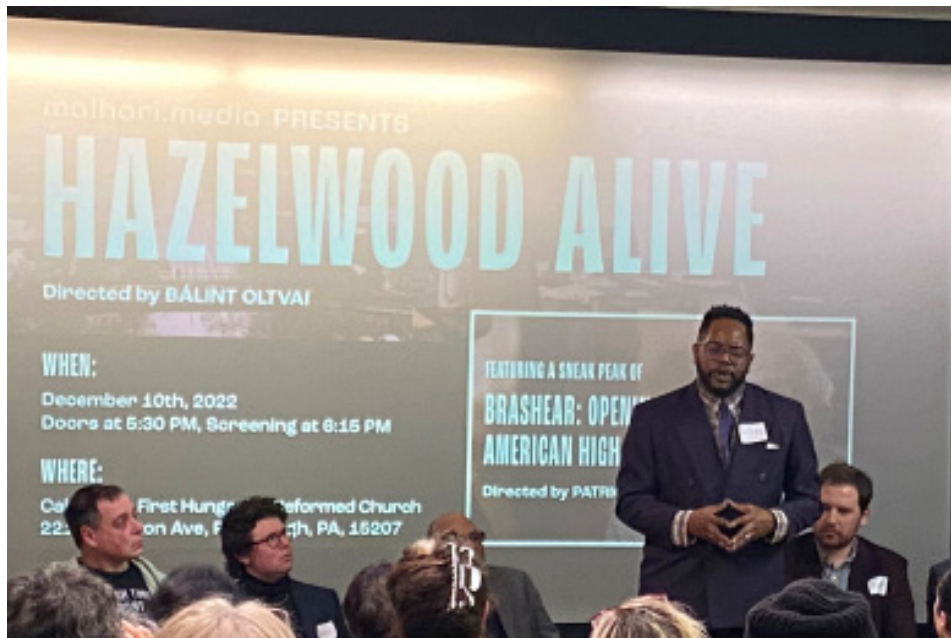
“Hazelwood really needs this sort of attention,” Mr. Carter told the Union Progress. “Hazelwood is already on the cusp of all this work that needs to happen. I think this film will really help to give a preview of what really could be the next Hazelwood.”

Malhari Media is the brainchild of local creatives Rishi Sethi, Balint Z. Oltvai, Patrick Stanney and Stefano Ceccarelli. Sethi, the CEO of Malhari Media, is a University of Pittsburgh alumnus interested in highlighting the “human stories” that define western Pennsylvania’s evolution through its rich history.

Mr. Oltvai, who directed “Hazelwood Alive,” is a Point Park University alumnus with experience working on the sets of Hollywood projects filming in Pittsburgh such as HBO Max’s “American Pickle,” Hulu’s “Happiest Season” and Netflix’s “Sweet Girl.” He’s also a first-generation Hungarian American who considers Hazelwood “kind of like a home away from home” due to how often he attends the Hungarian Reformed Church there.

Hazelwood’s Hungarian population has dwindled over the years to the point where Mr. Oltvai is one of the youngest members of his church’s congregation. He and Mr. Carter bonded over their shared desire to put Hazelwood in the spotlight for once.

“I connected with JaQuay on that level, where he’s preserving the history, and I want to do my part to not only show his story, but it’s really a reflection of how I feel about Hazelwood and its people,” Mr.



JaQuay Carter, founder of the Greater Hazelwood Historical Society of Pittsburgh, addresses the audience at the December 10 screening of "Hazelwood Alive" at Hazelwood’s First Hungarian Reformed Church of Pittsburgh.

Photo by Tiffany Taulton

Oltvai said. Working closely with Mr. Oltvai meant that Mr. Sethi was also aware of Hazelwood’s plight long before starting production on “Hazelwood Alive.” A narrative centered around one Pittsburgher’s mission to preserve his childhood neighborhood’s history was exactly what he wanted Malhari Media to be associated with.

“It comes down to what we want to do with our careers, our filmmaking and our storytelling,” he said. “What kind of contribution do we want to make to society with our work and our art?”

Most of the filming on “Hazelwood Alive” took place in February and March 2021. Its name comes from a phrase often used by Mr. Carter’s pastor in the 1990s that helped him retain hope that Hazelwood would one day see some tangible revitalization.

The finished documentary mixes sweeping drone shots of Hazelwood with footage of Mr. Carter visiting some of those recognizable

landmarks — some of which have been abandoned for decades. One particularly affecting scene finds Mr. Carter in front of the now-defunct Gladstone School, right at the spot where his parents had their first kiss. Mr. Carter said he enjoys making “the history come to life a little bit” with anecdotes like that.

Mr. Oltvai attempted to “create



It was a packed house at the December 10 screening of "Hazelwood Alive" at Hazelwood’s First Hungarian Reformed Church of Pittsburgh. Photo by Tiffany Taulton

a visual language between JaQuay and the buildings” by playing with perspective while capturing shots of Mr. Carter interacting with his childhood stomping grounds.

“We really wanted to show the relationship and the effects these buildings have, not only on his work but on him emotionally,” Mr. Oltvai said.

Mr. Sethi said after the local screening of “Hazelwood Alive” he will give it a festival run, and ultimately publish it on YouTube. He added that Malhari Media is currently working on another documentary about Brashear High School, located in Pittsburgh’s Beechview neighborhood, that will be “in the vein of this kind of storytelling.”

Everyone involved in “Hazelwood Alive” hopes it will be able to provide some perspective on this singular Pittsburgh community’s past, present and potential future.

“I truly believe this film is the beginning of something,” Mr. Oltvai said. “Not only for the way I look at stories and people from now on but the way people will look at Hazelwood and the changes happening so quickly in Pittsburgh.”

"Hazelwood Alive" will be shown during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on Monday, January 16. See Page 8 for details.

Joshua Axelrod covers pop culture, media and more at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, but he is currently on strike. Contact him at jaxelrod@unionprogress.com.

This article originally appeared on Pittsburgh Union Press, published by striking workers at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. It has been lightly edited and was reprinted with the kind permission of Mr. Axelrod and PUP. Read more at unionprogress.com.

Council

Continued from Front Page

“We’ve got some of the wealthiest and most powerful people, all the way to some of the poorest and most vulnerable. And we’ve got everyone in between,” she said. “And I am here to represent all of you.”

The other council members praised Councilperson Warwick for getting right to work.

“For anyone here in chambers, or supporters who don’t already know, your Councilperson-elect has been sitting in chambers with us every single session,” Councilperson Deb Gross said. “I think she has better attendance than anyone else.”

Council president Theresa Kail-

Smith celebrated having four women council members again.

“The last time we had four women on Council was back when Council-

We’ve got some of the wealthiest and most powerful people, all the way to some of the poorest and most vulnerable. And we’ve got everyone in between... And I am here to represent all of you.

Councilwoman Barb Warwick

person Rudiak was here,” she said. “And we caused a little bit of shake-ups around here. And I will just say, we’re looking forward to shaking things up with you too.”

Natalia Rudiak represented District 4 from 2010 to 2017.

Councilperson Warwick launched her campaign for the District 5 seat in late May of last year, before Controller O’Connor vacated it. But in late June he was sworn in as Allegheny County Controller.

County Democratic committee members chose now-Councilperson Warwick as the nominee in a September 15 vote.

The special election took place on the same day as the general election. Ms. Warwick won with 74.29% of the vote.

See page 18 for the full text of Councilperson Warwick’s remarks and page 6 to meet her staff.



Council member Warwick’s youngest led the Pledge of Allegiance. Photo by Heather Mull

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Proud to put people first in Pittsburgh and beyond

By State Rep. Aerion A. Abney, representing Pennsylvania's 19th legislative district



Photo courtesy of Rep. Abney

Hello, Hazelwood residents! I hope all of you had a merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, joyful Kwanzaa, and wonderful New Year! I'm eager to share with you some of the important work I've been doing in Harrisburg and here at home.

With a new legislative year begun, I'd like to reflect on some of the significant measures that I and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle helped secure last year.

We secured \$125 million in funding for the brand-new Whole Home Repair Program. As a result, residents I'm proud to serve and those across the commonwealth will be able to afford repairs and renovations their houses need to ensure their safety and well-being and that of their families.

Another new crucial program we created was the Child and Dependent Care Enhancement Program. A total of \$25 million was allocated to benefit working families with children in daycare who already qualify for the federal childcare tax credit. The state credit, 30% of the federally approved expense, will lift a heavy burden from families already struggling to make ends meet.

We also worked to uplift early childhood education. Pre-K Counts received \$60 million and \$19 million went to Head Start Supplemental Assistance. I'm so pleased to see this investment in future generations and hope they go on to make their unique mark on our society.

I also joined state Sen. Jay Costa, Allegheny County Controller, Corey O'Connor, and others to break ground on Gladstone Residences. The former school will be converted into a 51-unit apartment complex. I want to thank the Hazelwood Initiative, The Community Builders, all the partners involved and the entire community. New affordable housing is a win-win for social services and economic development.

Thank you. Stay warm during these winter months. I look forward to seeing and talking with you soon.

City council: Meet your new District 5 team



From left: Brooke Christy, Councilperson Barb Warwick, Laura Byko and Addy Lord. Photo by Heather Mull

By District 5 Councilperson Barb Warwick

Hello District 5 neighbors!

Thank you for reading the first of our monthly community updates in The Homepage! Barb is so honored and excited to be representing you all on City Council through 2023. Please be sure to sign up for our monthly newsletter at <https://wkf.ms/3j89oUu> or using the QR code at the end of this article.

Meet the team

As we kick off the new year and get our feet wet, the District 5 Council team will start out small, but mighty!

We hope to meet you and get to know you all at community meetings and other events around the district. If there's an event happening in your community that you would like Barb or someone from her team to attend, please let us know! You can reach our office at (412) 255-8965 or district5@pittsburghpa.gov.

Barb Warwick

Barb is a local community organizer and working mom living in Four Mile Run with her husband and four young kids. She has lived in The Run since 2014. After winning the special election to fill the remaining year on Corey O'Connor's term, she was sworn in as the District 5 City Councilmember on Dec. 12.

You can reach Barb by email at barbara.warwick@pittsburghpa.gov or by phone at (412) 368-2068.

Laura Byko

Laura worked as the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator at Just Harvest before joining Barb's staff. She

grew up in Harmony, PA and studied journalism at Point Park University. She will be working full-time as a legislative aide for the District 5 office. You can reach her at laura.byko@pittsburghpa.gov.

Brooke Christy

Brooke is a law student at the University of Pittsburgh and will graduate with a Certificate in Energy and Environmental Law. Brooke spends time volunteering for reproductive justice organizations, enjoying Nine Mile Run with her dogs and leading pro-bono projects on campus. Brooke will be working part-time as a legislative aide for the District 5 office. You can reach her at brooke.christy@pittsburghpa.gov.

Addy Lord

Addy is a Greenfield resident with a background in design strategy, community building, and technology. She wants residents to feel they have access to the government they elect, and enjoys helping demystify the processes and codes in place for everyone. Addy will be working part-time as an aide for the District 5 office. You can reach her at addy.lord@pittsburghpa.gov.

November and December updates

Lots has been happening since Barb became the councilmember-elect. In addition to moving into the new office at 414 Grant Street and getting to know their new colleagues on council, at the mayor's office and across the city, the team has been busy working on:

- Distributing more than \$40,000 in Community First grants to small nonprofits

across the district, with a focus on organizations serving youth and neighbors in need

- Working with Public Works to secure funding to renovate the Burgwin Rec Center
- Talking with Citiparks about options for offering satellite services for kids and seniors in the 31st Ward
- Securing a commitment from the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure to implement simple traffic calming measures at the top of Hazelwood Avenue in 2023 and to begin work on a traffic calming plan along the entire corridor

As we move into 2023, remember that the City Council District 5 Office is here to represent YOU. So, if you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Here's to a happy, healthy, and productive New Year!

Best Wishes,

Barb Warwick and your District 5 City Council team



Scan this QR code or visit <https://wkf.ms/3j89oUu> to sign up for monthly newsletters from Councilperson Warwick's office.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

New leadership roles and new ways to serve the new 38th district

By State Rep. Nick Pisciotano,
representing Pennsylvania's 38th
legislative district



Photo courtesy of
Rep. Pisciotano

Hello friends
and neighbors,
New legis-
lative maps
drawn to re-
flect population
changes fol-
lowing the U.S.
Census are now
in effect. For
some of you,
this may mean
I will no longer

be your state representative.

For others, it means I will remain
or become your state representative.

My staff and I are always ready to
assist members of our community
with any state-related matter. Please
call us at (412) 466-1940, email
RepPisciotano@pahouse.net or
visit our new office at 3563 Moun-
tain View Drive in West Mifflin.

Serving as chair of the Allegheny County House delegation

I am honored to announce I have
been unanimously elected Chair-
man of the Allegheny County House
Delegation for the upcoming 2023-
24 legislative session.

I am grateful for the support of my
Allegheny County colleagues, who
represent a wide variety of lived
experiences, personal backgrounds
and legislative goals to lead our col-
lective efforts toward improving the
lives of Allegheny County residents
over the next two years. As chair,
I'll be paying much closer attention
to issues across the entire county as
I continue to work for the residents
of the 38th Legislative District.

Leading on labor, energy and development

I was also honored to be named
chair of the newly formed House
Democratic Subcommittee on La-
bor, Energy and Development. This

new subcommittee focuses on pol-
icy solutions that protect workers
and develop the workforce while
expanding opportunities for respon-
sible energy growth and economic

*As I begin my second term,
I'm eager to continue advo-
cating for systemic reforms
like these that will help us
fix our broken economy.*

development in the Commonwealth.

In this role, I'll be able to have a
greater impact on legislative initia-
tives and build on Pennsylvania's
reputation as a national leader in la-
bor and energy. During my first term
as a state legislator, I was proud to
author and introduce bills like the
Stop Price Fixing Act, Open Mar-
kets Act, a bill that would eliminate
state subsidies for businesses that
engage in union busting, and others.
As I begin my second term, I'm ea-
ger to continue advocating for sys-
temic reforms like these that will
help us fix our broken economy.

Visit my website at RepNickPi-
sciotano.com to read more about
the legislation I've been pushing to
create a fairer economy for working
families, small businesses, and con-
sumers in Pennsylvania.

Get help paying your heating bill

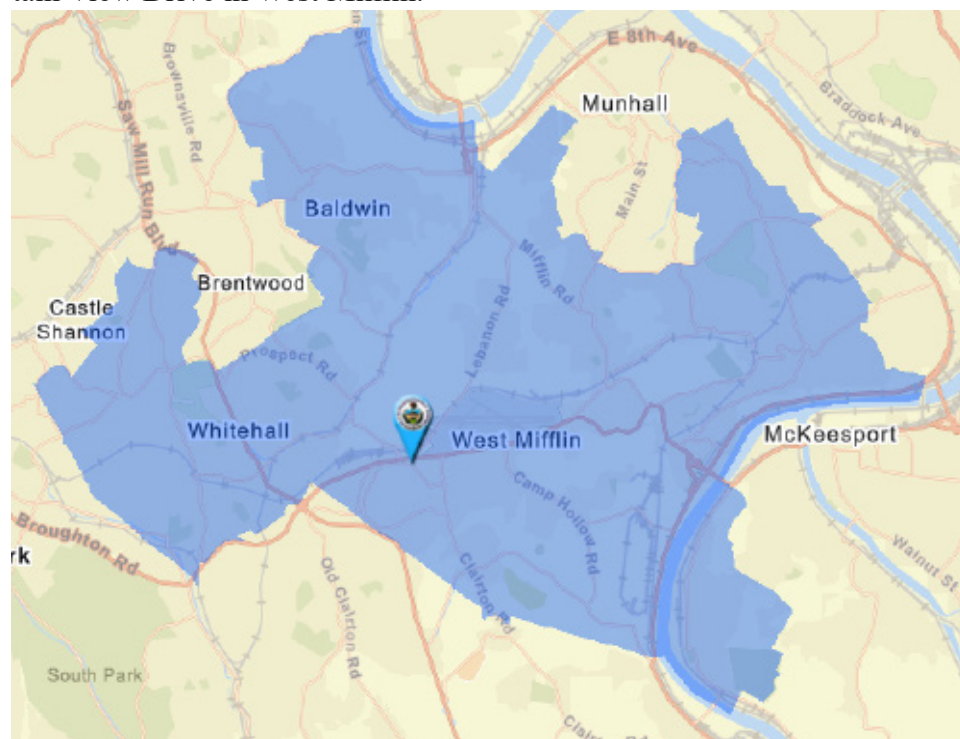
With the winter heating season in
full swing, many people are con-
cerned about how to afford the high
cost of heating their homes. The
Low-Income Home Energy Assis-
tance Program (LIHEAP) is a state
program to help families living on
low incomes pay their heating bills
through cash grants.

The cash grant is a one-time pay-
ment sent directly to the utility com-
pany/fuel provider to be credited on
your bill. These grants range from
\$300 to \$1,000 based on household
size, income, and fuel type.

Contact my office to see if you're
eligible and get more information
on LIHEAP.

Stay well,

Nick Pisciotano



Map of the new 38th legislative district. Screenshot from RepNickPisciotano.com

2023

Happy New Year

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MLK DAY BRUNCH

- food
- MLK Bingo
- live music
- film screening of **"Hazelwood Alive!"**
- crafts
- featuring JaQuay Edward Carter,
- face painting
- founder of the Greater Hazelwood
- speakers
- Historical Society of Pittsburgh

DATE: JANUARY 16TH

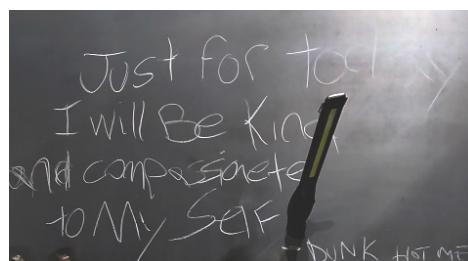
TIME: 11AM-2PM

LOCATION: COMMUNITY KITCHEN PITTSBURGH



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT Metal

Continued from Front Page



Writing on a metal divider at the IAW studio reads, "Just for today, I will be kind and compassionate to myself." Photo by Juliet Martinez

Kaulen said she has been burning through the curriculum, mastering skill after skill. She told me in November that attending the program gives her an ego boost.

"I'll turn around in my booth and have like seven people watching me," she said. "And they'll all be like, 'Who taught you how to weld?' I've only been doing it for four weeks and I've gotten super good at it. There's things I'm still struggling with... But I'm getting better."

Learning to create together

That atmosphere of encouragement comes out of the code of conduct the students created and agreed on together.

"We asked the students what they thought they needed to work in a safe, interesting space," Mr. Kaulen said. The students made suggestions and then voted on the ones they felt were most valuable; that became a contract they all signed. It includes values like supporting one another, being safe and respecting each other.

"That style of discussion and exchange is really one of the attributes that help the students come together as a team," Mr. Kaulen said. "It's what they do together and the support they create for one another."

Summer welding bootcamp students further developed their ability to work as a team when they collaborated with peers from the Center of Life KRUNK music program and the Ambassadors for Social Justice to design and create a public sculpture piece. The process involved discussions, drawing and prototyping

of several concepts that emerged. The concept for the final sculpture, Hands of Unity, came from 15-year-old Anthony Minniefield of Hazelwood. He said the idea came to him from watching the process itself unfold.

"I looked around and saw us all working together, coming from all different cuts of the cloth of Pittsburgh, so I just thought about... we're unified, working all together," he said.



Anthony Minniefield, 15, of Hazelwood, stands with Hands of Unity, the sculpture he designed as part of a collaboration between the summer welding bootcamp students, KRUNK participants and Ambassadors for Social Justice from Center of Life. Photo by Juliet Martinez

The hands are framed with rebar and covered with different shaped pieces of metal. Mr. Minniefield said each shape is unique, like the people who collaborated on the project.

Mr. Minniefield is one of several summer welding bootcamp students who continued coming to the studio in the fall. Mr. Kaulen said the more experienced students like to help the beginners. One of them, Andrew Rejamentova, joined as a student in 2018. After high school he went to college, but he felt it was not a good fit. So he obtained a community college welding certification and is now one of the instructors.

Breathe before you weld

Another instructor, James Byron, brings more years of experience to the studio. He emphasizes mindfulness in his teaching.

"Welding is a kind of meditation," he said. "You're focusing on this one point, you know, just a molten puddle in the dark, and all your thoughts are kind of concentrating, so it already is a meditation."

The veteran welder started his career at 15 and taught at Triangle Tech, but a motorcycle accident in 2019 forced him to change directions. Now he takes art classes at Slippery Rock University and teaches his trade to a new generation of metalworkers.

"Before I have them weld pretty much anything anytime, we take a deep breath," he said. "It helps with a lot more than just welding."

IAW students tested both their mindfulness and technical skills when they participated in a competition sponsored by the Pennsylvania Talent Pipeline Project on November 29. Hannah George, a 14-year-old from Mt. Lebanon, said she relied heavily on the mindfulness techniques she has learned at IAW, especially when she was presented with blueprints.

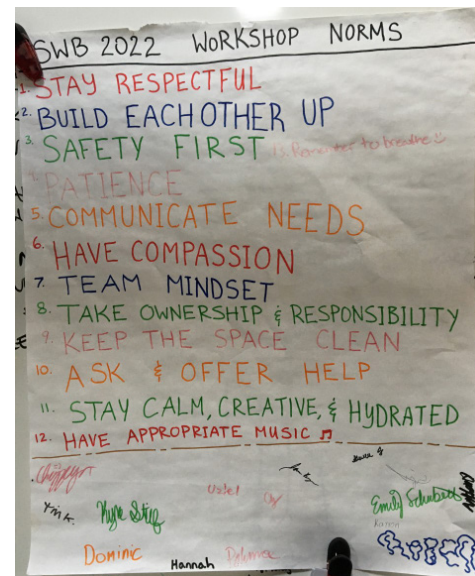


Leila Garcia, 16, of Reserve Township, during a break from learning new welding techniques.

Photo by Murphy Moschetta

"I hadn't really worked with blueprints before, so they were a little scary," she recalled. "But then I kind of just focused, I calmed down and I was able to read them. They were easy to read, just a little new to me."

Mr. Byron said he tries to teach the students self-compassion instead of self-esteem.



The code of conduct students generated by talking about their needs and then voting on the most important elements. Photo by Tim Kaulen

I noticed that several students were practicing self-compassion after the competition. I had talked to them beforehand, and they were optimistic about winning. When none of them brought home a prize, they were philosophical rather than dejected.

"I made a few mistakes, of course, because it was my first time," Ms. George said, adding, "It was fun!"

As the community forming around IAW grows, it is bringing art, design, skill-building, teamwork and mindfulness together in a way that enriches students' lives whether they continue with a career in metalwork or not.

As instructor Mr. Byron said, "We don't just teach welding."

Students aged 14-18 can apply for the IAW spring afterschool welding program at <https://iawpgh.org/> by January 25. The program is free of charge.

HEALTH

Hazelwood native balances violence prevention with mental wellness

By Juliet Martinez

Does giving back to your community necessarily mean giving everything? Rick Butler would say no.

Mr. Butler is a Hazelwood native and father of 22-year-old and 14-year-old children. He has worked in youth programs, addiction and recovery and behavioral health for more than 20 years. For the past two years, he has been an outreach worker doing violence prevention with REACH. The REACH team implements Pittsburgh's group violence intervention strategy. In addition to helping police identify areas where violence is likely, he mentors youth in Hazelwood and at Allderdice High School. It is a line of work that demands a lot. I spoke with him in December.

"I'm born and raised in Hazelwood," he said. "So [a youth] might say, 'I'm beefing with these kids from up here.' And I'm like, 'Well, let me see what I can do.'"

First responders with deep roots

Knowing the different parties allows him to step in and mediate conflicts so they do not escalate. But being rooted in the community means violence can hit close to home.

A 2021 University of Chicago report on the trauma exposure of violence prevention outreach workers described them as first responders who often share deep community connections where they work. When they are called to the scene of a crime, the people they are consoling and supporting could be friends or family. It is a kind of trauma that can cause burnout and affect their mental health.

It's hard because when you grow up in a neighborhood, you know everybody. Any instance of violence that happened out here, I get a phone call. The last one ended up being my godson.

This is a fact that Mr. Butler is all too aware of.

"It's hard because, when you grow up in a neighborhood, you know everybody. Any instance of violence that happened out here, I get a phone call," he said. "The last one ended up being my godson."

His godson, Darrian Davis, was shot and killed on July 1 last year. Working and spending time among lifelong friends, the grief he feels

and problems he wants to help solve are ever-present. Even taking a vacation to Jamaica did not allow him to escape that reality.

"I did have fun," he said. "But you know, we had that trip planned before [the shooting]. Darrian should have been with us."

I'm a fan of therapy. Not because I'm crazy. Not because I want to jump off a bridge or anything. I'm a fan because sometimes we're going through it, and it's bad.

Finding balance

So he has learned to take deliberate steps to keep himself balanced, as he puts it. One of those steps is living outside the neighborhood. When he goes home to East Pittsburgh, he can leave work behind. He said when he lived in Hazelwood, he would get 7 a.m. phone calls from parents asking him for help with their child. He said at one point in time he was so focused on working in the community that, "I have lost some friendships and important relationships."

Now he can see that he needed more distance. He counsels friends who are doing the same kind of work to step back and rest.

"What you're doing is going to be there, but you cannot lose yourself in it," he said.

He also sees a therapist.

"I'm a fan of therapy," he said. "Not because I'm crazy. Not because I want to jump off a bridge or anything. I'm a fan because sometimes we're going through it, and it's bad."

Fighting stigma

Research on attitudes towards therapy and mental health care in the African-American community has shown that although many Black people are open to seeking help, some may have trouble finding a therapist, starting therapy or opening up to someone they do not know.

Mr. Butler tackles these issues head-on with the youth he mentors, recommending support groups and therapy resources they can access. But he said they scoff at the idea of talking about personal problems to someone outside their community.

"They say, 'I ain't going up there because I don't want to start talking to that white lady or that white man.' I'm like look, homeboy, you need



Rick Butler in Hazelwood. Photo by Juliet Martinez

to," he said. "I purposely go to a therapist who I cannot relate to with anything, so when I sit down, our conversations help me."

Mental health should not be a purely individual endeavor for violence prevention workers, according to the University of Chicago report. Organizations that employ them can adopt practices that actively promote the well-being of front-line staff. These range from offering

paid time off and adopting a trauma-informed approach to engaging in public relations campaigns that educate society about the importance of violence prevention workers.

So far, Mr. Butler said his quest for balance is working.

"I'm enjoying it," he said of his outreach work. "It's where I'm supposed to be."

FAMILIAR FACES



Above: The Greenfield holiday parade brightened a dark evening with puppets, floats, friendly neighbors, fireworks and food trucks. Photos by Christa Jones



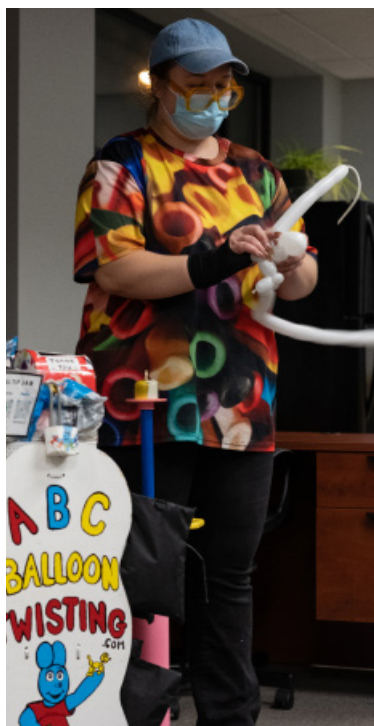
Above: More festive lights and faces from the Greenfield holiday parade. Photos by Pat Hassett



Left and below: Erika Johnson of Hazelwood performed selections from her new project, Rx Melodies, at Woods House in December. Ms. Johnson said of the collection, "These songs have been the prescription that I've needed to heal from some things and I pray that it encourages you to heal also." Photos by Heather Mull



FAMILIAR FACES



Hazelwood's Light-Up Night brought a festival of crafts, music, food, balloon animals, carriage rides, friendship and community spirit to Second Avenue. Photos by Heather Mull

31ST WARD NEWS

A magical season of family and community fun

The 31st Ward community wishes a happy and healthy new year to all! Thanks to all who attended the three holiday events and made them all a tremendous success at Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church. We look forward to seeing you in February for the senior lunches on the first and third Tuesdays in February. See you then!



Top half of page: The annual Santa's Trolley event on December 3 was a smash hit. Families rode the trolley with Santa and Mrs. Claus, decorated cookies from Dee-Dee's Delights and enjoyed hot cocoa and hotdogs. A troop of 22 volunteers kept everything running smoothly. Spins Bowling Alley and Shop 'n Go contributed raffle prizes. Photos by Juliet Martinez



Lower half of page: The second annual Lincoln Place holiday parade on December 10 brought out families, scouting troops, churches, Santa and the young at heart. Neighbors watched from their yards as the parade moved from Interboro Avenue and Plaport Street to its end at Cox and Muldowney avenues, where Never Ending Ink handed out doughnuts and cotton candy. Photos by Barb Warwick

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COMMUNITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 13 Hazelwood Initiative community meeting highlights

Board chair election results, workforce development and real estate updates

By Juliet Martinez

The December meeting gave community members a chance to find out about Hazelwood Initiative’s affordable housing and real estate programs, as well as the results of the board chair election. We hope to see you at the next community meeting on January 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. (See page 2 for full details.) Make sure you are signed up for the Hazelwood Initiative weekly e-newsletter, which contains job postings and other opportunities.

Annual board election

Jourdan Hicks was re-elected. Board membership is a way to get involved in the neighborhood. Anyone curious about serving on the board is invited to call the Hazelwood Initiative office. Leave your information and a board member will contact you.

Board members are residents and business owners in Greater Hazelwood. Through monthly meetings, the board guides the activities of the organization, including voting on properties to be purchased and developed in order to preserve affordable housing and commercial space in the neighborhood.

Workforce development

Hazelwood Initiative Executive Director Sonya Tilghman gave an update on the workforce development aspect of the Gladstone Residences project. She said 15 people signed up for the construction training class but only eight students attended class after the first meeting. Of the remaining eight students, seven are from Hazelwood. All eight completed the nine-week course. An additional Occupational Safety and Health Administration test was offered, and some of the students completed that. So far, four students passed the course and others are expected to retake the exam.

Construction training course graduates could only start at Gladstone

Residences after the remediation of the building is advanced enough to clear certain parts of the building. They are hiring now.

Project partners are contacting students to offer them work. Two of them have confirmed their interest. Ms. Tilghman said she has spoken to Partner4Work about possibly running the course again and will ask for community referrals to recruit people for future courses.

Real estate

In March, Hazelwood Initiative bought the building at 4800 Second Avenue, the home of Jozsa’s Corner, from owner Alex Bodnar in his final days. Senior Real Estate Director Dave Brewton gave an update on the 137-year-old building. It has asbestos that needs to be removed and is full of stuff that needs to be cleared out. After that, Mr. Brewton said he will come back to ask the community what to do with that property moving forward.

Affordable housing

Hazelwood Initiative owns 68 affordable and scattered site rental housing units throughout the neighborhood. Mr. Brewton said of those, about 10 are vacant and still under construction because they were in bad condition at purchase.

Most of those rental units are occupied. Every apartment is affordable for families living on 60% or less of the area median income, but many tenants with Section 8 vouchers are living on as little as 30% of the area median income.

When finished, the Gladstone Residences will add another 43 affordable rental units and eight market rate units to the neighborhood.

Hazelwood Initiative has also sold 25 houses to first-time moderate- and low-income home buyers in six years. Four more homes are currently under construction and destined for purchase by moderate- to low-income home buyers.

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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
Easy Does It Lawn Care.....	(412) 708-3586
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Elmer Herman Funeral Home.....	(412) 521-2768
Fitzhenry Contracting.....	(412) 496-3892
Floriated Interpretations.....	(412) 607-7886
Fred Crum Reasonable Tree Service.....	(412) 353-7000
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Go Go's Market.....	(412) 863-7783
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Hazelwood Café.....	(412) 586-7532
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TRANSPORTATION

Enroll today for a new pilot program that will test free and discount transit fares in Allegheny County

By Pittsburghers for Public Transportation

Enrollment is now open for a new 12-month pilot program to test how providing free and discounted transit fares to low-income riders on Pittsburgh Regional Transit (formerly Port Authority of Allegheny County) improves their health and well-being. Any Allegheny County resident who was receiving EBT/SNAP benefits in September of 2022 (or someone who is the guardian of a child who was receiving benefits) can enroll their entire household in the program.

People can visit discountedfares.alleghenycounty.us to enroll in the program or should go to discountedfares.alleghenycounty.us/support/ to find a list of organizations that can help them enroll by phone or in person. Enrollment will continue until the county reaches its target number of 14,000 participating households, which it is hoping to do by year's end or early 2023.

The program is being administered by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. It

comes after years of advocacy and organizing from transit riders together with organizations like the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, Just Harvest, UrbanKind, and Pittsburghers for Public Transit to help make costly fares more affordable for those who rely on public transit most.

Who is eligible to apply for the pilot program?

Eligible participants:

- Currently reside in Allegheny County
- Were receiving SNAP benefits in September 2022 or are the parent of a child who was
- Are between the ages of 18 and 64 or are 65+ and have household members below age 65
- Do not have another household member ages 18 through 64 who is already participating in this pilot

Why is it a pilot rather than a permanent program?

A pilot program is a trial run. Participant experience in this pilot will influence the design of the perma-



Photo courtesy of Pittsburghers for Public Transportation

nent program. The Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services will use this pilot to understand how local residents may benefit from more affordable public transit. It will measure the impact on ridership and whether lower fares increase access to jobs, services, and other things residents need.

How does the pilot work?

Participation in the pilot is voluntary but it includes agreeing to share information about your household and transit use.

All participants will have the opportunity to receive additional compensation for participating in occasional surveys. Eligible participants

will be randomly placed in one of three groups:

- Free fares: This group will receive unlimited free fares on all PRT trips for 12 months.
- 50% discount: This group will receive a ConnectCard that reduces the cost of all PRT trips by half for 12 months, and is pre-loaded with \$10.
- No discount: This group will receive a ConnectCard pre-loaded with \$10 but will not receive a fare discount.

Enroll or learn more at discountedfares.alleghenycounty.us.



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>

Want to order seeds?

- Review the Fedco group order policies online at <https://www.fedcoseeds.com/seeds/groups.htm>
- Print out a copy of the Fedco order form and write down what you want, filling in the blanks on the form as if you were going to order on your own
- Bring that form, along with your payment, to Matt Peters at Dylamato's Market or the Hazelwood Initiative office (by appointment) BEFORE Saturday, January 7th.

Contact Matt Peters for more information,
gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 GREATER HAZELWOOD LIGHT UP NIGHT SPONSORS!



CATALYST CONNECTION



TISHMAN SPEYER

AND THANK YOU TO ALL OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ATTENDEES WHO MADE IT A GREAT NIGHT!

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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...

Favorite New Year's Eve celebration

Countdown to midnight
Sparklers lit bright
Adam Rohe

Danced all night
till morning's light
Janice O'Toole

Mas
Spanish wine
Shrimp was sublime
MaryAnn Majcher

Eggnog and rum
Yum Yum Yum!
Miss Bea

Least favorite New Year's resolution

Get organized!
Go Exercise!
Yearly Reprise? .
Adam Rohe

Exercise every day,
would rather play
Janice O'Toole

Cold, dark
Absolutely was no spark
MaryAnn Majcher

Back to the gym, can't win!
Miss Bea

Favorite childhood ice-skating spot

Always a thrill
Icy Backbone Hill
Adam Rohe

Make no mistake,
Panther Hollow Lake
Janice O'Toole

Schenley Park rink
Cheeks rosy pink
MaryAnn Macher

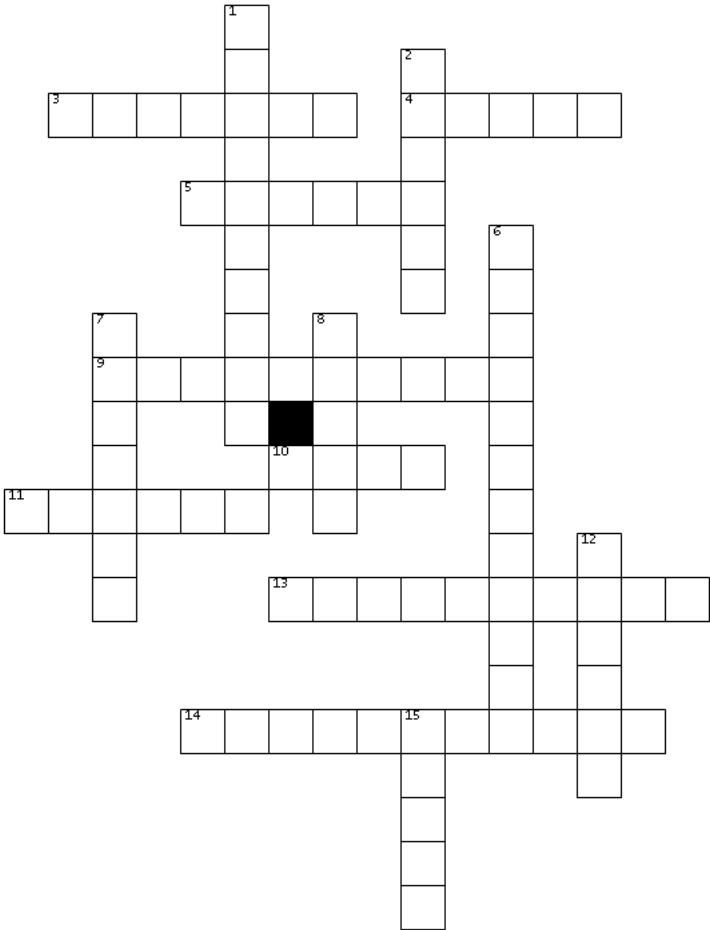
Fishing pond, safe to be on?
Miss Bea

Prompts for February:

- Black History heroes
- Groundhog Day
- Winter storms

Please submit your six-word poems, stories, poems and prompts by January 13 to editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org.

Crossword



ACROSS

3. What Barb Warwick was on December 12 in City Council chambers.
4. The documentary featuring historian JaQuay Carter is called "Hazelwood ____."
5. Something that violence prevention workers may experience on the job.
9. The name of Erika Johnson's new collection.
10. Sign up for the discount fare pilot program and you might get to ride transit for ____.
11. This side street in Hazelwood will be getting a makeover.
13. Metalworking instructor Mr. Byron recommends one of these before welding.
14. The name for a low-speed street where cars and bikes share space.

DOWN

1. Former city council member Corey O'Connor now has this job at the county level.
2. Greenfield and Lincoln Place both had these holiday events.
6. The building that was home to this historic restaurant is 137 years old.
7. Santa took Lincoln Place families on rides in his _____ in December.
8. This group sets the priorities and steers the activities of Hazelwood Initiative.
12. Fruit trees that used to grow wild throughout this area.
15. Jim McCue says this piece of essential steelworker equipment would melt on the job.



STR8TS

SUDOKU

Easy

Tough

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

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

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

DOMI pledges greater transparency and responsiveness at Nov. 30 Sylvan Avenue Trail Project public meeting

By Juliet Martinez

Residents of Hazelwood and Four Mile Run got updates on the make-over of a quiet street while challenging the city's representatives to be more transparent at the November 30 public meeting for the Sylvan Avenue Trail Project.

The plan will add traffic-calming measures and re-pave the side street and its sidewalks between Hazelwood Avenue and Home Rule Street. The work on the north-south street three blocks east of Irvine Street in Hazelwood should begin in June of 2023 and finish in November.

Neighborway and safer crosswalk planned

Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) project manager Mr. Panzitta said the plans now include a pedestrian island for people crossing Hazelwood Avenue at Sylvan Avenue. This is a response to input at the online meeting in April. The concrete platform will give pedestrians a safe place to stand between lanes of traffic if they must stop while crossing the street. The island also narrows the street. Mayor Ed Gainey's chief operating and administrative officer, Lisa Frank, explained this narrowing causes drivers to slow down.

Instead of the bike lanes proposed in the original plan, the street will now be a Neighborway, which is a street designed for slower car traffic and bikes to share the road.

Some Sylvan Avenue residents said they look forward to a newly paved street, new sidewalks and driveways with ADA-compliant curb cuts. Other residents applauded it as well.

"I walked from my house with my nephew to Schenley Park and he was really really scared going along Second Avenue," Hazelwood resident Tiffany Taulton said. "I'm happy to have a safer way to take a child to Schenley Park that's calmer, that doesn't have any cars around."

"We do not trust DOMI."

But the shadow of the now-defunct Mon-Oakland Connector hung over the discussion.

Many of those present spent years fighting to stop DOMI from building the planned shuttle road through Schenley Park and Four Mile Run. Mayor Gainey announced the end of the shuttle road project in February, but some at the meeting wondered aloud if the Sylvan Avenue project is simply the Mon-Oakland Con-



At the Sylvan Avenue project meeting, Rebekkah Ranallo of Neighborhood Services holds the mic. Seated at the table in front are Lisa Frank, Kim Lucas, Felicity Williams, Michael Panzitta and Emily Bourne. Photo by Tiffany Taulton

connector minus the shuttle road and a name laden with controversy.

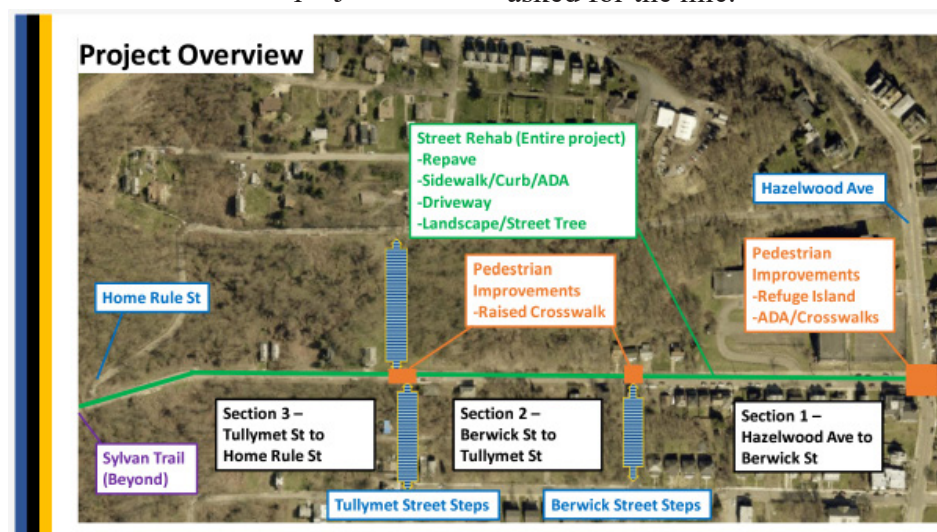
Questions swirled about why the Sylvan Avenue project was happening before traffic calming on Johnston Avenue, where a child was hit and killed by a motorist in July, or on Hazelwood Avenue, where vehicle crashes are common. One attendee asked if Sylvan Avenue would be getting this makeover without the economic development happening at Hazelwood Green. Ray Gerard, a resident of Four Mile Run who worked to defeat the project, asked

tion online at that time, including a question-and-answer session in each meeting, having all meetings be hybrid and posting a complete meeting recording afterward.

Ms. Frank, invited Mr. Gerard to email her the demands, which she said sounded achievable.

The nice and the necessary

Four Mile Run resident, community activist opposing the connector project and newly elected District 5 council member, Barb Warwick, asked for the mic.



Overview of the Sylvan Avenue Project. Screenshot from presentation, courtesy of the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure.

why DOMI had not adopted a set of communication demands from the group Junction Coalition.

"We've been through this for seven years now," Mr. Gerard said of the history of opacity and poor communication from the department. "We do not trust DOMI."

The demands include advertising public meetings at least two weeks ahead of time, posting the presenta-

"I do want to step in," she said. "Just sort of as an intermediary."

Ms. Warwick acknowledged the mistrust, and that its roots predated the current administration. She motioned to the DOMI officials and representatives from Mayor Gainey's administration seated facing the auditorium. But, she said, "This is a new administration."

She observed that after years of disinvestment and neglect, Hazelwood and Four Mile Run are no longer used to having nice things. But now, Ms. Warwick said, these communities can look forward to getting not only the "nice-to-have" things, but also the "must-haves." She described the completed Sylvan Avenue project as a place to take walks and ride bikes as a family.

It's a nice thing, she said, but "We're also getting Johnston Avenue, right? Not tomorrow, but it's coming," she said. "We've just heard we're getting traffic calming - I mean, for years we've been asking right? - for that upper Hazelwood corridor traffic calming."

Mayor Gainey's deputy chief of staff, Felicity Williams, said the administration knows safety is a top priority in Hazelwood, which is why DOMI added a safety element to this project and scheduled the speed humps to be installed on Johnston Avenue in the spring. Ms. Frank mentioned earlier that DOMI is working on an audit of city steps and has completed an audit of traffic safety needs that will form the basis for their traffic calming plans.

DOMI director Kim Lucas said the department is analyzing crash data, vehicle speeds and other information, which will be publicly available in a map portal that she said was soon to be released. The department uses an equity index that considers economic and mobility disadvantages like the average distance to get to public transportation.

"By being transparent and by actually using data to make those decisions is how we're moving the needle on proper investment and righting the wrongs of the past," Ms. Lucas said.

After the meeting, I asked her whether DOMI will be relying on 311 calls as part of its data collection. She said she has seen 311 data from some neighborhoods with hundreds of calls while other neighborhoods have zero.

"We know that 311 is not a complete picture," Ms. Lucas said, adding that there is a balance to be struck. "It's like [people are saying,] 'Listen more!' but also, make sure that the people you're listening to are representative."

Sylvan Avenue's northern portion is closed because of a landslide in the 1960s. Mr. Panzitta replied to a follow-up email to say that the trail through the closed portion will be built in 2024 at the earliest.

COMMUNITY NEWS

“I am here to represent all of you.” Full text of Councilperson Barb Warwick's remarks after taking the oath of office December 12

Hey everyone. Before I start, is County Controller Corey O'Connor here? Hi. Stand up, Corey. Can everybody please give Corey a round of applause? Thank you. So he served in this office for 12 years and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. So thank you, Corey.

So let me start. I just want to say thank you.

Thank you to everyone here, for taking the time out on a busy Monday to come and celebrate this day and this office. Thank you to my family, and to my friends and my neighbors, and to everyone up here who came to speak on my behalf.

Thank you to every activist, neighborhood leader, committee member and elected official who sat down to talk with this woman from The Run about how her community spent six years fighting the Mon-Oakland Connector. And how it was about more than just a shuttle road through a public park. How it was about people and communities coming together, building coalitions and demanding a say in how government resources – our money – is spent. Because we know what's best for our communities. And we know that building the Pittsburgh of the future doesn't mean anything if it ignores the voices and the needs of the people living in Pittsburgh today.

So, here we are. We stopped a shuttle road and then we won a seat on City Council. But what happens now?

There's still so much to do. We've got a grocery store to build in Hazelwood. We've got a playground to build at Greenfield School. We need a rec center for our kids and seniors in the 31st Ward. And we need traffic calming and accessible sidewalks, and better public transit, so people can get to work and school and wherever they need to be, safely and quickly without getting in a car. We need to clear out vacant lots and build affordable housing.

That's right! And yes, we do need to build the Hazelwood Green. But we need to do it in a way that includes the surrounding communities, and insures well-paid, family-sustaining jobs for every worker in every building, whether they have a college degree or not.

I have to be honest with you all. I woke up on November 9 feeling very nervous. Like, oof, man. Are we going to be able to do this? Am I going to be able to deliver on all this “for the people, by the people” governance model that we've been talking about for so long?

Well, on that same day, on November 9, I had my first meeting right here in this building. It was a meeting with Deputy Director Pollack and Director Ranallo of Community Engagement. It was a meeting about traffic calming, of course. And it went really well.

And after that meeting, I stopped in to say hello to Council President Smith and Reverend Burgess. I met Madame Clerk for the first time and her staff, and the council budget team. And so many others. And you know what? They've been so amazing, so helpful and kind every step of the way. Councilmembers Gross, Coghill, Strassburger, Wilson, Lavelle, and your staff. You've been wonderful.

DOMI [Department of Mobility and Infrastructure], DPW [Department of Public Works], they've been so helpful that, in fact, even before I entered my office, we all were able to distribute more than \$40,000 in Community First grants across District 5. We got a commitment from [DOMI] Director Lucas for traffic

calming on upper Hazelwood Avenue. And [DPW] Director Hornstein sat down with us and figured out how to pay for renovations to the Burgwin Rec Center in Glen Hazel.

So, as someone who is brand new to city government, I have to say I am really impressed by the hard work and dedication of every single person that I've met here so far. So to all of you out there serving the people of Pittsburgh, I want to thank you, too. And I want to say what an incredible honor it is to have been chosen to serve with you.

I know everyone is probably looking at their watches. You've got meetings to get back to. Work to do. So I'm going to wrap it up, but you see, the thing about District 5 is it's really unique. It's a microcosm of the city as a whole. We've got it all. We've got some of the wealthiest and most powerful people, all the way to some of the poorest and most vulnerable. And we've got everyone in between. We've got every race, religion, orientation. Young people, families with kids, retirees. We've

got progressives, Blue Dogs and Republicans. We've got environmentalists and developers. We've got people who just arrived and people whose families have been in their communities for generations. And I am here to represent all of you.

As we embark on this new chapter, for Greenfield, Hazelwood, Glen Hazel, Squirrel Hill, Swiss-helm Park, Regent Square, Lincoln Place, Hays and New Homestead, that's right, 31st Ward, I've got you. I've got you.

As we embark on this new chapter, I want you to know that my door is always open. You have my ear. And while I can't promise that we'll always agree or that we'll get everything all at once, what I can promise is that you will always know exactly where I stand and that my staff and I will be proactive and persistent. And we will listen and push and follow up and follow up and follow up again and again until every community has what it needs to thrive.

So let's get to work!



Barb Warwick's family, friends, supporters, neighbors, activists and fellow public servants filled city council's chambers on December 12 to witness the swearing-in of the first new council member for District 5 in 12 years. Councilperson Bobby Wilson said he was glad not to be the newest member of anymore. Photo by Heather Mull



COMMUNITY VOICES

Recalling “Hell with the lid off”



Jim McCue. Screenshot from 2017 video about Everybody’s Gardens. <https://tinyurl.com/everybodys-garden-video>

By Jim McCue

I have, from my dad, a copy of Stephan Lorant's book, “Pittsburgh: An American City.” It shows a picture of downtown Pittsburgh at noon in which you could hardly see across the street. When the LTV coke works was running here in Hazelwood, you could barely see across the Mon river.

Dust fell constantly. When I was in Saint Rosalia grade school, we had to dust every day. My mother worked downtown at Duquesne Light and at Fairmont Creamery in the Strip. Her blouse would get so dirty she would have to change it when she got to work.

Pittsburgh before pollution laws was described as, "Hell with the lid off." My friend Richard LeGrande told me he only saw his father cry twice: once when his mother died and once when he told his dad he was going to work at J&L, which later became LTV.

Steelworkers' boots would melt. People were injured and killed right and left. People would fall into vats of molten slag or get crushed be-

tween coal cars. At Hussey Electroplating, which was near the Tenth Street bridge, conditions were so bad only one employee lived long enough to retire.

My mom told me young people liked to take their dates up to the hill above South Side to watch the red-hot, glowing molten slag flowing over the hillside. Workers talked about how beautiful the process was despite the danger.

Steelworkers were well paid, but when the steel industry declined, people lost their livelihoods and homes. Some died by suicide.

Just Harvest and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank were formed to help deal with the wave of sudden poverty.

New technologies can be put to constructive as well as destructive uses. Drones, for instance, are not only being used for war but also replanting forests destroyed by climate change, global warming, wars, and ecosystem destruction.

Everybody's Garden update

I've retired from taking care of Everybody's Garden. I can't do the work anymore, but I'd like to see more pawpaw trees planted. They used to grow all around here, but you don't much see them in stores because they go bad too quickly. There are still a few hazelnut trees. Matt Peters and my friend Sandy Putorek grow them, and they can sometimes be bought at Dylamato's grocery store on Second Avenue near the Glenwood Bridge.

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

2023: Another Year of Blessings

By Vicar David L. Wenndt

Happy New Year! At the start of every new year, hope abounds for what the future holds, and 2023 is no different. This is why New Year's resolutions are so popular. Everyone has hope that as the calendar turns to a new year, there's an opportunity to have a fresh start of the year. To try to make the new year better than the old, even if the year before was a good year.

For Holy Cross, 2022 was a wonderful year. The Lord has richly blessed us for another year, and has provided us with the means to continue to be a blessing to the community. We distributed food to about 150 families every month. We distributed clothing for all four seasons to people from all over Pittsburgh. Our community day was a great opportunity for people to come together and spend the day with friends and neighbors.

Vicar Janssen and I served the community spiritually. Dinners were served and hot meals were given twice a month. Our Christmas toy drive was again successful as we distributed toys and coats to families who need them.

As we look forward to 2023, we will continue these food and clothing programs. We will continue to

have community dinners on the first and third Sundays of each month. Services will still be every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Bible class will still be Sunday at 11 a.m. and Wednesday at noon. Matins will still be prayed Tuesday-Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross are still going to be Fridays at noon. We will again have our community day festival, and our toy drive next Christmas.

We would love to see you. If you're in need of clothing or nourishment for your body or soul, companionship or a way to serve, we're here for you. Please feel welcome to come to any service or stop in any time we're open. We'd love to see you, talk to you, share what we have with you, and tell you why we do all the things that we do.


May the almighty and merciful Lord, The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you in 2023 and beyond!

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

The Community Voices section of The Homepage showcases readers diverse perspectives and experiences. The opinions expressed here are the author's alone and do not reflect the views or policies of The Homepage or its publisher, Hazelwood Initiative, Inc.

HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE

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

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

*Lower income limits apply to all other units and section 8 voucher holders are encouraged to apply.

Str8ts Solution

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

Sudoku Solution

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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SATURDAY 11AM-5PM

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