

## Propel Starts School Year Virtually

By Rachel Sonnet



From left to right: Principals Tina Mayer, Darnell Bonner and Meryl Johnson are ready for technology distribution  
Photo: Propel Hazelwood

Propel Hazelwood staff couldn't contain their excitement on August 19. It was the first of a three-day technology distribution that involved educators stationed at socially distanced tables who provided families with everything they needed to successfully start the new school year remotely. It was easy to tell by the smiles behind their masked faces that both staff and families were happy to be together again.

The leadership team at the school spent several weeks preparing for this moment. Principals Tina Mayer, Darnell Bonner, and Meryl Johnson called every family, sorted thousands of notebooks and pencils, and introduced the school staff to a new way of teaching. School Counselor Lacey Macchia and Scholar Support Specialist Justin Peeks prepared hundreds of devices and supply bags. Every scholar walked away with a technology device, all

of their curriculum materials, and a mountain of school supplies. Propel Hazelwood distributed 60 iPads to scholars in kindergarten through 2nd grade and 195 Chromebooks to scholars in 3rd through 8th grades.

Families received class schedules and scholar forms. They were able to ask questions and sit down

for individualized technology walk-throughs. Ms. Muldowney, a second-grade educator, enjoyed "seeing our families show up with so much enthusiasm and positivity about returning to school." Support staff also distributed packets of community resources. 412 Food Rescue supplied 50 boxes of produce and

30 boxes of dairy products. Food Service Coordinator Sara Foster handed out hundreds of breakfasts and lunches as part of the school's Grab-n-Good food distribution effort. Duquesne University's Caring for Asthma in our Region's School Children program was also on site to provide services to scholars enrolled in the asthma program.

Scholars and educators spent that following weekend preparing for the start of the school year. At 8:30 a.m. on Monday, educators opened their Google classrooms for instruction. The first morning was a flurry of activity with educators standing in front of their computers, anxiously waiting for their scholars' faces to appear. Everyone chipped in to provide technology support to families that morning. Propel also created a portal on its website to further support families who need assistance with this new way of learning.

*Continued on Page Four*

## Smooke Chiropractic Celebrates 30 Years of Business in Greenfield

By Gerri Tipton



New location at 1154 Greenfield Ave, near Hazelwood Ave Photo: Alfred DiRosa

Small businesses are what make your community thrive and come together. Even with the pandemic, there have been some small businesses that have been able to stay open. One of them is Smooke Chiropractic, who just so happened to celebrate their 30-year anniversary in the Greenfield community.

Joel Smooke, the owner and only chiropractor working within his business, founded Smooke Chiropractic. His dreams of becoming a chiropractor started in the later years of his life. Before he became a chiropractor, he started taking charge of his family-owned business, Smooke Pop Distributing Company, after his father got sick. "I went into business with him just to save the business and he never came back fully well, so I stayed in business with him for 11 years," said Smooke. It

was during those 11 years of business when he started to experience problems with his right arm, shoulder and neck. After seeing his medical doctor and other specialists so many times with no good results, it was then he decided to go see a chiropractor.

"I didn't want to live the rest of my life in pain and not being able to

use my right arm well, so I told my doctor I was going to go see a chiropractor." Even though a friend of Smooke's told him to go see a chiropractor, his doctor told him that it wasn't a good idea due to the risk of paralysis as a result of being treated. "My doctor told me to not go or he wouldn't be my doctor anymore, and I told him I was going anyways

because we have exhausted all of our options." Smooke insisted on going to see a chiropractor anyway since he wasn't getting help from his doctor or anyone else in the medical field. "Long story short, I went to the chiropractor and my pain went away, and within a month my arm came back to 100% normal."

It wasn't too long after he saw his chiropractor when he decided he wanted to be in the profession as well. He asked his chiropractor what all is entailed in becoming a chiropractor, and how he would feel if he opened up a chiropractic business in the same area. "He said 'you can open up across the street and I wouldn't care because there is enough clientele for everyone.'" Smooke then went to a chiropractic college, came back and opened up his own business close to where he was getting treated. He has been at

*Continued on Page Five*

# The Homepage

Serving the communities of

Greenfield · Hazelwood · Lincoln Place · Hays · New Homestead

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

## Editor

Alyse Richmond

## Layout

Alfred DiRosa

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

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

Email your letters to:  
adirosa@hazelwoodinitiative.org



## Our Mission Statement

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

# HI Continues Development of Gladstone Residences and Annex

By Sonya Tilghman  
HI Executive Director

This summer has brought some exciting news for the Gladstone School Project! Hazelwood Initiative (HI) and our development partner, The Community Builders (TCB), recently learned the Gladstone Residences was awarded Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). LIHTC will provide most of the funding necessary to complete this affordable housing development. The total project is expected to cost about \$19 million, with \$12 million generated by the LIHTC and \$7 million in loans and historic tax credit equity.

The development entails the renovation, preservation, and adaptive reuse of the main (larger) building on Hazelwood's Gladstone School site. The Residences will provide 53 studio, one- and two-bedroom units for households of all ages comprised of 44 affordable and 9 market rate units. The LIHTC program mandates that units remain affordable for 40 years.

Additionally, TCB will be the overall resident support services coordinator for the Gladstone Residences and will work with HI staff, other neighborhood- and community-based organizations and local agencies to develop a plan to deliver appropriate services to the residents. Next steps include applying for a zoning variance (the site is currently zoned for single family residential), finalizing commitments for the remaining (non-LIHTC) financing and completing construction drawings. Construction is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2021 and to be completed in the first quarter of 2023.

Development planning for the Gladstone Annex is moving forward as well. On August 19, HI held a community meeting to kick-off the planning effort. In that meeting, we learned about other similar buildings throughout the region and how they were redeveloped to benefit their communities:

1. Energy Innovation Center: a historic renovation of the former Connelley Trade School in the Hill District that achieved LEED Platinum sustainability certification and which now houses workforce development, green energy, and educational programs.
2. 7800 Susquehanna: located in Homewood, this renovation of a former Westinghouse building is now home to artists, manufacturers, and other makers; nonprofits; small businesses and job training organizations.
3. Community Forge: located in Wilkinsburg, this renovation of the former Johnston school is now primarily home to small businesses, entrepreneurs and youth-serving programs.
4. Work Hard Pittsburgh: a cooperative supporting small businesses, entrepreneurs and freelancers in Allentown.

Each presenter provided valuable information about their projects that will prove helpful as we plan for the Annex. This summer, HI received a grant that will allow us to start on the basics while we plan for the future. Our immediate next steps are to clean out the building, complete some preliminary drawings and create a broader stabilization plan and budget.



Former Gladstone School on Hazelwood Ave

Photo: Alfred DiRosa

# COVID-19: Greater Hazelwood Food Distribution

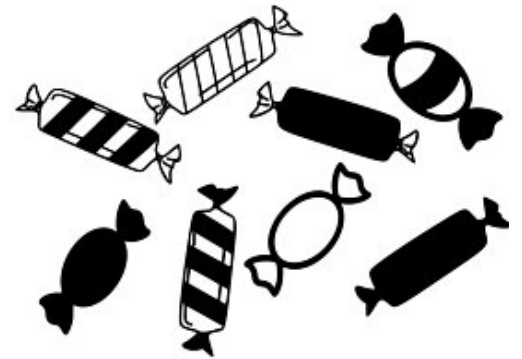
## Correction:

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

Article: Project Elsewhere (September 2020)

By Ray Gerard

This article was cut short last month due to a technical error. We are running the full article this month. It can found on Page Fifteen.



## Hotlines, Alerts, & General Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

## “Just For Today” Nar-Anon Family Group Meeting



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

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

## Houses of Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Morningstar Baptist Church**  
5524 Second Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-421-6269

# Propel Starts School Year Virtually - Continued from Front Page

Every morning starts with a live group meeting during which educators check in on their scholars, take attendance, and conduct an engaging activity. Scholars then switch between live sessions with their educators, working online with their classmates, and working independently away from the computer. They follow their online schedule throughout the day to attend their classes in English and language arts, math, science, art, and music. Time online varies depending on grade level, increasing as scholars get older. Most scholars are done with instruction by 1:45 p.m. Propel understands that families need flexibility right now. If scholars cannot attend the live virtual sessions, they can watch recorded lessons and complete their work through their Google classroom.

At the end of the first day, staff logged on to Google Meet for a quick discussion about how the day went. The sentiment among educators was that they were impressed by the determination of parents to figure out this new system. They expressed hope that this virtual world may work as the school deepens its relationship with families as partners in education. Even as families and staff adapt to this virtual schooling environment, we are preparing for the return of in-school learning in the fall. According to the Propel Schools Health and Safety Plan for

School Closure, Recovery and Safe Return, if safety guidelines issued by local and national public health officials allow it, we will transition to a hybrid protocol in October. This means school will take place through in-person instruction with approximately 50% of scholars attending in-person each day and the other 50% of scholars participating in remote learning. So, half of our scholars will physically be in the school building one week then they will learn remotely for a week.

Our robust plan includes additional cleaning provisions, scholar and staff hygiene to prevent the spread of germs, automatic temperature checks as scholars and staff enter the building, social distancing in classrooms and hallways, plexiglass sneeze guards for desks, and a variety of other measures. Our plan can be viewed on the Coronavirus Resource page at [propelschools.org](http://propelschools.org). Even though there are no children in the school right now, as you walk through the halls you can hear the sounds of educators telling children to flip to a certain page or talking excitedly about the difference between a hypothesis and a theory. While this world is strange and different, there is a sense of normalcy in the fact that Propel educators continue to re-define school because our scholars deserve an excellent education.



Ms. Southworth, fifth grade English and Language Arts Educator, prepares materials for a family  
Photo: Propel Hazelwood



Second grade educator, Ms. Muldowney, teaches a scholar how to use their iPad  
Photo: Propel Hazelwood



**FISHES & LOAVES**  
cooperative ministries

Hazelwood-Greenfield Meals on Wheels  
**412.499.4313**  
Volunteer | Sign Up | Learn More  
[fishes-and-loaves-hazelwood.org](http://fishes-and-loaves-hazelwood.org)

## FISHES & LOAVES congregate LUNCH



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

now open  
for take out  
meals!

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


## GIANT Hazelwood Flea Market Returns!


**October 10 (10am - 3pm)**  
4915 Second Ave  
(Parking lot next to C&D's and across from Rite Aid)

<b>*Wish Truck = Free Ice Cream (1-3pm) &amp; Snacks</b>	<b>Furniture Toys Clothes Food trucks and more!</b>
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All proceeds to benefit free art programming and excursions for Hazelwood residents through Art Excursions Unlimited

**Contact: 412-628-6499**

  
**ARTS EXCURSIONS UNLIMITED**



# About Me: Before, During, and After

By Andrea Coleman-Betts



ognition of The Greater Hazelwood Residents—even former residents—and all the great things they’ve done before, during, and after in the community. This will be a series of articles in the upcoming editions of the Hazelwood Homepage, so if you have any nominations you would like to submit, please contact me at [betts2560@gmail.com](mailto:betts2560@gmail.com). This can include you and your own bragging rights.

Turning your Me to a We...or Me, You, and then Us.

From Me to You,

*Andrea Coleman-Betts*

P.S. A noun is a word defined and described as a person, place, or thing...your words matter!

Andrea Dennis Coleman-Betts...a little about me—just in case you don’t know me. I’m from Renova Street (Glenwood) where I attended Burgwin Elementary. I resided with Mother Helen Dennis and four siblings, then went on to Gladstone High School in Hazelwood. I am married to William Betts, Sr. and have four children—now adults—one of whom is now deceased.

I write a lot in my free time. This stems from reading a lot in the days of my youth. From cereal boxes and cartons to audio books from the Hazelwood Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Carlow University. I am a community activist and educator, and still love to write. I serve Carlow University as a member of the Carlow Alumni Advisory Council (CAAC). I personally advocate on behalf of the challenges of physical or mental disabilities, and the barriers in the community which may keep those with disabilities from the community table—food for thought.

In this launch, the Garden of Different Abilities (GoDA) is growing. I want to bring to the forefront, here in the Hazelwood Homepage, rec-

## Smooke Chiropractic: - Continued from Front Page

his office working by himself since August of 1990, and recently moved into a new office one block up the hill on the corner of Greenfield and Hazelwood Ave.

“I’m 71 years old, and I would like to have the rest of my life be productive but, at the same time, not as busy. So, I limit my practice now to so many patients per hour, and I moved to a place that was much easier to run from one patient to another.” During all the years of working at his business, Smooke explained how busy his practice was on the daily. He would see three patients a day three days a week, and the other three and a half days, he would take care of the Steelers football team. “During that time, I took care of the Steelers for approximately 12-15 years, but got a little too old, and bowed out of that position.”

Business for Smooke has been good since Covid. He’s been operating differently, and with everyone’s safety in mind. He cut back on how many patients he sees in a day so that he has more time for cleaning and sanitization. “I clean

off the tables, equipment, and fumigate the place so it can disinfect any viruses. There’s hand washing equipment when you come in the door, and a sign that says every patient must wear a mask when entering and while in the practice. I try to stay safe for myself, patients and my family.”

When asked about his least and most favorite parts about working in this business, Smooke explains that there are times he has to send a patient to another specialist if there is no improvement, but he enjoys his body of work. “Not helping someone fully is my least favorite part of the practice. I like to be productive and helpful to people. It’s like a hobby to me rather than work. My hopes are that I live to 101, so that I can be the oldest practicing chiropractor.”

To make an appointment to see Dr. Joel Smooke, call 412-422-4321.

## 21st Annual Safe Halloween

Grab-&-Go style

Big bags of pre-sealed candy for free

4901 Second Ave  
Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

Start time will be posted on  
[www.hazelwoodinitiative.org](http://www.hazelwoodinitiative.org)  
& HI's Facebook page

## Affordable Rental Housing in Hazelwood!

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

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

1-bedroom or 2-bedroom (210 Flowers)  
3-bedroom (5420-22 Herbert Way)

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

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

Lincoln Place • Gates Manor  
Hays • New Homestead



### Our Mission:

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

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



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

**Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene**  
5604 Interboro Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-462-2524  
www.ipnaz.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Contact us:

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



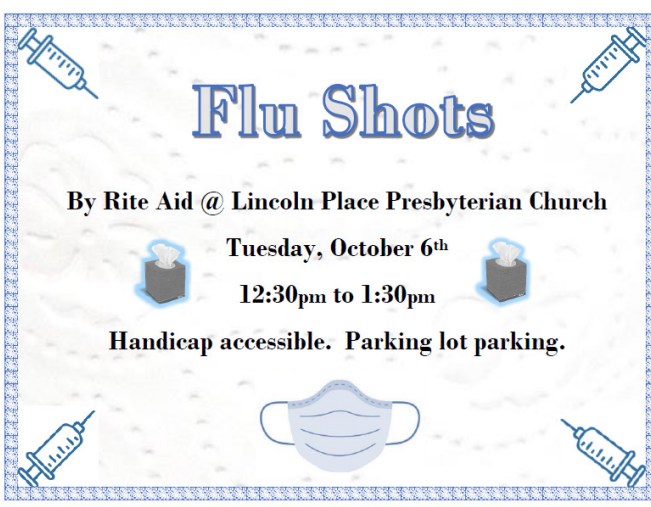
### 31<sup>st</sup> Ward Flag Fund

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

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

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





## Flu Shots

By Rite Aid @ Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church

**Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**  
12:30pm to 1:30pm

Handicap accessible. Parking lot parking.

## Early History of Lincoln Place: Part II

By Edith Markle Hillman

*The following is the second installment of a retelling of the early years of Lincoln Place that was originally published in August 1944. It was shared with us by a current resident of the area, but little else is known about the work or its author. Since the original story is quite long, but also quite interesting, we are publishing it across three issues. The last installment will be in November's issue.*

At one time in history, we had the Champion Amateur Baseball team of the district. We also issued a weekly paper known as the Lincoln Place Progress, owned by W.A. Kerns with C.J. McBride as editor and reporter. A volunteer fire department was formed in 1908 and proved its value many times. Of course, the fire insurance rates were reduced. The old fire hall still stands on Margray Street.

The Haslett family moved to Akron, Ohio in 1909. Mr. Haslett, having once owned a photography studio in Pittsburgh, always kept up his interest in this work. When he moved to Akron, he accepted a position in the photography division of the Akron Rubber Plant. He was employed there when he died in December 1935. His widow and some of his children are still located there. Mr. Haslett also owned the first automobile in Lincoln Place. It was generally called a "Kidmobile" or "Horsemobile" by the citizens, as the kids helped to push it to the road and horses generally pulled it home.

Like all American pioneer ancestors, the residents of Lincoln Place knew the community needed two great institutions to help form a great democracy: namely, the Church and Public School. Mr. Haslett came from a very well-bred and religious-principled family. These characteristics showed via certain restrictions laid down when Lincoln Place was planned. At first, assisted by Mr. McGraw, worship services were held in various homes. Reverend Hardy, an evangelist, took charge when possible. In good weather, Sunday School was held in the old orchard on Rodgers Street. In bad weather it was in the "Black House." This property was on Rodgers Street behind what is now the Presbyterian Church.

In 1898, Mr. Haslett donated ground for the Nazarene Church Building, then known as the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. When this church was first established, there were many all-day meetings held. On account of its proximity to the car line, street car men noticed this and began calling it the "Holy City." Many old-timers recall this quite vividly. There were sixteen members when the Nazarene Church was officially organized. At this writing, the only two charter members who are still active are Mr. and Mrs. John M. Skelton of Keefe Street. There are now more than one hundred active members in the church. As stated before, Mr. Haslett donated the adjoining house, which members agreed to sell to liquidate the debt. Dr. Norris had charge of the first service in the church. The Catholic folks of the time mostly went to Bull Run Catholic Church to worship.

There was much talk about forming a Presbyterian Mission. Mr. Thomas Reges was very active in this work. In 1900, Mr. Beggs, Mr. John Stevens and Mr. Joseph Markle made plans through the Pittsburgh Presbytery to hold services in their homes as a mission. Reverend Mumford of Lebanon Church conducted the first services held January 1, 1901 in the home of John R. Stevens, who lived in the house next to Dr. Stewart's Sunday School Scholars. These men were not long in securing the use of the school house for services. The young people organized Christian Endeavor, and that organization had charter members Bessie Argyle, Alice Stevens, Marguerite Beggs, Clara Brierley, Willis Brierley, Cornelius Brierley, Clarence Welch, Carl Johnson, Roy Markle, Rose Markle and Ida Beisel. On May 5, 1901, active members were received into the church which had become part of Lebanon Church.

Lots were purchased and, by hard work, money was raised to erect a church building. In 1903, the original Presbyterian Church Building was erected. An addition has been added to the original structure. By an odd coincidence, the only active charter member of the Presbyterian Church is Mrs. Elizabeth Markle, who is the next-door neighbor of the Skelton family. The Presbyterian

Church has over 150 active members at this time.

*Early History of Lincoln Place to be continued in November's issue of The Homepage*



# 31st Ward Fall Clean-up

**October 10, 2020**

Mark your calendar:  
The 31st Ward CAG (Community Action Group) will host a community clean-up event on the morning of **Saturday, October 10 (Start time: TBD).**

More details to follow: Check **31stWardCAG.org** for updates.

Volunteers needed! Light lunch will be provided.

For questions and to sign-up, call Dianne: **412-462-3440**




**Nov. 3, 2020**

## Election Day Spaghetti Dinner

### TAKE OUT ONLY



**The Original Church Sauce recipe will be used**

**Spaghetti Dinner, salad & cake \$10.00**

**3:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

**Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church**  
**1202 Muldowney Ave.**

**For more info call 412-462-6148**

## Living in a Treehouse

By Jeff Karwoski

Let me tell you about my house. I moved here during the early stages of the pandemic. I needed a place to isolate and be safe. My initial intention was to set a tent on the property my landscape company operates from. There's a pond and fields and trees that we planted all over the place and it's nice and quiet and close to nature. I figured I could have a summer escape sleeping under the stars. I spoke to the property owner about the possibility of setting my campsite and they said it would be fine, then they said jokingly, "you could camp in the treehouse."

Now, this is no ordinary tree house. It's extraordinary! It was built by skilled carpenters for the kids to play in when they came to their grandparents' house. It was built inside a stand of Norway spruce and Scots pine that were thoughtfully planted forty or so years ago. This patch of trees has grown from the seedlings that were planted into

a fully functioning forest-scape. There are not only spruce and pine trees but a number of other species that moved into the developing little forest. You know the phrase "S#!\* Happens"? Well, literally, that's how new forests are made. Birds expel seeds when they fly over to perch on the new trees. The lucky seedlings that grow from them—and don't get chomped by the deer—grow up to fill in the canopy, giving the forest diversity.

The forest I live in has some Big-tooth aspen shooting up beside the treehouse while a crooked Scots pine slithers out through the canopy before it breaks through into the sunshine of the fields. There are maple trees and dogwoods growing here too, and you can find little oak trees growing around where forgetful squirrels buried their acorns. Patches of tufty moss grow on the forest floor, and a patch of poison ivy too. The ivy and I have an agreement. I won't bother it and it won't bother me. So far both parties have held

up their end of the bargain. Mostly I leave the forest alone. I don't set up picnic tables or light fires in it. There's a small path leading through and I stay on it to minimize my impact.



Photo: Jeff Karwoski

When I enter the forest, it quiets down. The birds and animals become still for a moment. As soon as I am up in the treehouse, life quickly

resumes its normal pace with young bunnies chasing each other on the forest floor and countless birds singing and flitting through the trees around me. Mornings especially are like waking up in an aviary. When night comes and the birds quiet down, a chorus of frogs and crickets fills the air. The animals don't seem to mind that I'm here. I feel accepted into their environment. Even the bugs don't seem to mind. As a matter of fact, they think I'm pretty cool. Just like the poison ivy, the bugs and I have a special agreement and it seems to be working out.

Life is simple in the treehouse—as simple as can be. There's no room for excess. At 7 feet by 7 feet, there is just enough room for my cot to open up. I have a propane stove where I make coffee and pancakes for breakfast, and simple one burner meals for dinner. You may think, "that's a really small space to live," and it is, but I still haven't told you

*Continued on Page Nine*

## The Green Way Life

We are in a dramatic moment in history. The old world is dying; a new world is being born. There is no longer business as usual. We need to be creative. Tragedy upon tragedy is being visited upon us. We, collectively, the whole human race, are having a dark night of the soul. But this could turn into a light night of transformation. The darkest hour is just before the dawn. In the I Ching hexagram directly after Stagnation is Creation.

We are all wounded, one way or another. Seeing ourselves in each other allows us to help others and ourselves both. Every plant is precious. Every plant has consciousness. Plants have been proven to have extra-sensory perception, intuition. The book *Secret Life of Plants* includes Indian scientist Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose, who invented the crescograph, which could measure minute plant movements, and concluded plants are sentient, even becoming drunk when given alcohol. World lie detector expert Cleve Backster, who worked with the CIA, hooked up polygraphs to plants and was startled by the plants showing

excitement when he only thought of injuring them by pulling a leaf or pricking a leaf with a pin or burning it with his cigarette lighter.

Many with green thumbs talk or commune with their plants. The great scientist George Washington Carver, one of the founders of modern agricultural breeding and processing, conversed with his plants and God both, and produced wonders. Non-human animals also are conscious and have extrasensory perception, many a pet owner knows. Physicists have been mystified by the paradoxical results that they've come to with their experiments. Light is both particle and wave, depending on the observer. Time and space are illusions. The mind of the observer affects the physical world.

It almost makes it seem like the Hindus were right to say that the physical universe is a constantly changing illusion—Maya. Shakespeare said all the world's a stage. Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream, merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream. Albert Einstein said, "Reality is

merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one." Spacey stuff! The Universe is real and not real. For those of us enmeshed in this current manifestation of reality, this Earth is REAL. Just around the corner for us is either extinction or rapid evolution.



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## Treehouse

- Continued from Page Eight

about the deck. The deck adds a luxurious thirty square feet of living space. It has a covered roof and I can sit out when it's raining and watch the aspen trees shake their leaves in the wind. The porch is a great place to unwind. It's up high and quaint with cutout views through the canopy into the fields and pond below.

All in all, it's been an enriching experience living up here. I have enjoyed this setting as a place to live through this crazy last summer. Of course, there have been moments of loneliness, being sequestered away in a patch of forest, but nothing like the loneliness I have felt living in houses by myself. There's something about being surrounded by all this life and movement that brings me enrichment. It makes me feel more human and it makes me feel alive and part of this world. I'm glad I found this place; I'll always remember it.

I wish that you all find your own personal treehouses, and I hope they are as full of movement and full of life as the one I have found. Let them be good places where you can

take refuge when the guano hits the fan. If you have already found one, then good for you, you're a lucky soul. If you haven't, keep searching. I promise there is one out there waiting just for you.



## Gardens in the Fall

By Matt Peters

Hazelwood Urban Ag Team Chair

2020, what a year. The end is in sight—end of the growing season, that is...

The Urban Ag Team is preparing for next year with an exciting opportunity for expansion with a new site for bed allotments available to the community! The garden situated at Langhorn and Tecumseh streets will be made available next year by suggestion and arrangement of the Strati family, in honor of the memory of Mr. Saverio Strati, Sr., a longtime member of the Hazelwood community who gardened there with his family since the 1950s. Sam's careful selection of plants as he watched them grow year to year have come to be a unique variety, a true Heirloom, a unique legacy to the neighborhood that he loved. This garden will be dedicated to the stewardship of this variety, and seeds are available free by request. Contact Matt at the HI office, or email [gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org). You can sign up for a bed online at <https://www.hazelwoodinitiative.org/urban-ag-team>.

18 beds have been scooped up within the first month of the published announcement! At the time of this writing it is not yet determined how many bed allotments will be available, but it seems that there will be significantly more than 18, and there will be greater flexibility in portioning the size of each allotment if folks want to organize in that manner. It is tempting to re-enact the success of the wooden bed frame design that has worked so well at the Y Garden, but that grant will not likely be available this year or the next, so that opportunity is closed for the time being. I think we will find this is of little consequence, however, as it is an easy manner to fashion perfectly functional beds without such luxury.

The popularity of the bed allotment program shows that there is a public demand for growing space that needs to be considered by city planners as we revitalize our neighborhood with new housing and development. Sites that are uniquely suited for growing food, many of which are identified in the Hazelwood Greenspace Plan written by

## Hazelwood's Health Depends on Bringing Back Its Trees

By Tiffany Taulton

HI Director of Community Initiatives

Can I take a moment of your time to talk about the environment? I understand that you're probably busy right now considering everything that's happened this year—from the pandemic to high rates of unemployment, a pending eviction crisis, remote learning with kids at home, and a national reckoning around civil rights—but I promise, this is important!

After decades of decline, Hazelwood is finally seeing new investments come into the area. The toxic brownfield left after the steel mill closed down has been cleaned up and Hazelwood Green is set to become a new tech hub with a beautiful plaza, bike trail, and perhaps even some riverfront activities like a water walking path, kayaking, or a romantic restaurant. But what about the rest of the neighborhood? What about the legacy of environmental hazards that exist where many of us live now?

Children in Hazelwood, like those in Homewood and Clairton, have in recent years been the focus of asthma studies in an effort to better control attacks which can cause them to miss numerous school days, contribute to weight gain as they avoid physical activity, and even result in parents losing their jobs as a result of taking off too much time to care for a sick child. Duquesne University has been working with Propel Hazelwood through its Caring for Asthma in our Region's Schoolchildren (CAReS) initiative to better educate students and parents about preventing and treating attacks. Helping parents to get their children to doctor's appointments more regularly and making sure both parents and children understand how to take the medication has proven to be effective at reducing attacks. But do you know what has the potential to help even more than better medicines and education? Clean air!

Now what makes Hazelwood's air so dirty? Two of the major factors are being downwind from the

*Continued on Page Ten*

Grounded Strategies, Inc in partnership with the Hazelwood Initiative and the Urban Ag Team, are essential to our neighborhood's food security and sovereignty. Community gardens distributed conveniently throughout the neighborhood offer a measure of food security at a direct, household level that no other food production system can provide. The next nearest opportunity for any meaningful step towards food security is the Hilltop Urban Farm, somewhere on the ridgetop across the river, too far away to have any meaningful direct impact. The geology of Hazelwood, given that it is located on the fertile river bottomland, means that those neglected nooks and opportunities emerging from the post-industrial remains are of exceptional value, and many are associated with urban archaeological sites of historical interest, some even significance.

The Flowers Avenue Rain Garden, the Glen Hazel Community Garden, and Everybuddy's Garden at the foot of the Elizabeth Street bridge, are three examples of places in our neighborhood where this model of

food production is taking place, in varying stages of kinetic potential and varying methods of approach. The Flowers Avenue Rain Garden, along with Everybuddy's Garden, emphasize perennials and the long-term principles of permaculture, and function mainly with the support of Grounded Strategies. The Glen Hazel Community Garden is entirely volunteer as a commonly held space for all. A tool shed built by The Mission Continues in 2019 is available for folks interested in gardening at the Glen Garden. Please contact Matt at the HI office to find out more.

The Blair Field and the Chance Way forest lots are places where food production in our neighborhood has an opportunity to step up to the next level. The Blair Field, an abandoned ball field that appears to have never had houses built on it since Tecumseh visited the Native village wegiwa there, is identified as a site where an Urban Farm can be developed, a place to produce a serious amount of food on a scale

*Continued on Page Ten*

## Hazelwood Trees

- *Continued from Page Nine*

Clairton Steelworks and the massive amount of traffic on Second Avenue. Have you ever been walking down Second Avenue and noticed how bad the air smelled—especially on a hot day? Sometimes it becomes really obvious when you have some of the bigger trucks rumbling noisily down the street and spewing black smoke... Or, you might remember those foggy inversion days we had earlier in the year when the polluted air was trapped low to the ground for days and it was advised that we not exercise outside.

Since COVID-19 is a respiratory disease, it has become even more important to make sure that every community has good air quality, as recent studies confirm that air pollution has been shown to increase the risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> I know this is frustrating to hear. 2020 has seemed like one never-ending bad news cycle and this is just one more thing to add to it. But I have good news! There is a way that we can improve the air quality in our neighborhood, improve our health, lower our energy bills during those hot days when we can't get to a cooling center, and make our neighborhood more beautiful: we can plant more trees!

## Gardens in the Fall

- *Continued from Page Nine*

beyond the household level. This would be a place where an entrepreneur could find seasonal employment or supplemental income, providing fresh produce to the market demand created by establishments on our Main Street like Dylamoto's Market, the Community Kitchen, or the several restaurants in our community that are struggling to make it through the Covid crisis. Grounded Strategies, the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, Grow Pgh, and the Urban Ag Team will all be collaborating on this vision, and we welcome input and feedback from the community about how this space can provide other functions and fit into the larger neighborhood development plan.

The Chance Way forest is the site of a problematic development proposal from the company renovating the Woods House, or Howser House, as it is also known. The Urban Ag Team sees that scruffy patch of trees as a place where forest gardening activity is uniquely best suited to begin, as it is directly across

In fact, Tree Pittsburgh and the City of Pittsburgh have agreed with this assessment and recently awarded Hazelwood two grants to increase our community's tree cover and better maintain the trees in the greenway. More news will be coming soon about these grants in the next few months. In the meantime, we will be having a series of meetings and events to talk about environmental concerns in the neighborhood and to gather ideas for actions we can take to make our neighborhood a healthier place to live. If you are interested in joining an environmental development meeting, hike, tree count, or other event please email me to be added to our invitation list: [ttaulton@hazelwoodinitiative.org](mailto:ttaulton@hazelwoodinitiative.org).

### References:

1. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/planetpolicy/2020/08/19/amid-covid-19-dont-ignore-the-links-between-poor-air-quality-and-public-health/>

the street from the Y Garden. The YMCA building will soon house the Three Rivers Village School, and this forest offers an unparalleled opportunity for an outdoor classroom where students can gain firsthand experience in the disciplines of biology, ecology, forestry, ornithology, and medicine, to name but a few of the opportunities to be found among these trees. The management of pastured animals under the light shade provided by the black locust trees would provide climate-friendly control of the invasive weeds, as well a unique attraction for the Pub, building on the economy of that century upon which it is themed, and not the robber-baron capitalist model of the early 1900s that left our neighborhood high and dry. Chance Way is our neighborhood's best chance to demonstrate that we are serious about making changes in the way our society does things in order to address the issues that plague our society, ranging from climate change and loss of habitat and biodiversity, to access to natural spaces and pub-

## City Theatre Drive-In Open Through October at Hazelwood Green

By Alyse Richmond

While the world we're wading through can sometimes feel like Groundhog Day, City Theatre and Hazelwood Green are offering unique, safe experiences for those craving a break from the monotony. Throughout the month of September, City Theatre hosted a number of socially distant outdoor events at Hazelwood Green, from live music and theater to comedy and ballet. Patrons were admitted with all Covid precautions in place—masks required, proper spacing between vehicles, and limiting contact between audience members by asking that they remain in their car/parking space unless using the restroom. Folks brought their own snacks and (nonalcoholic) beverages, and cheered or clapped for performers via car horns and headlight flashes. Drinking Partners, a comedy podcast group out of Pittsburgh, presented "A Night of Epic Comedy" on September 11, which featured a hilarious array of local comedians including Brittany Alexis, Samantha Bentley and Marcus Cox.

Unfortunately, the Drive-In Arts Festival (September 10 – 27) has

lic lands for city residents.

Sheep safely grazing in yonder lot is no mere bucolic curiosity. The milk, meat, wool, and other products of such a system are resources at the disposal of the discretion of the keeper, and perhaps shepherding need not be such lonely work in a neighborhood setting where the job can be shared? The Urban Ag Team aspires to more than a bit of kale and a few tomatoes when it comes to putting food on the table, but this ambition requires a level of social cooperation and unity of purpose more commonly found in a village than a city neighborhood in order to succeed. Even then, the most organized population of ambitious agriculturists will find opposition from monied interests and political complacency and/or corruption at every turn. This obstacle has grown to the point where the survival of our species is in question, to say nothing of the integrity of our system of governance.

Sites like these are our best opportunity to begin the long-term process of managing our expansive

come to a close, but City Theatre's outdoor season isn't over just yet. Now through October 18, Frankenstein by Manual Cinema will be playing nightly—with the exception of Monday nights—at 8 p.m. (doors at 7 p.m.) at Hazelwood Green. As depicted on the City Theatre website, "Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive stories for stage and screen." Manual Cinema's Frankenstein is "a new take on a classic gothic tale" that "stitches together Mary Shelley's biography with her beloved story of Frankenstein." This particular production features a live orchestra as a means to "capture an unexpected story about the beauty and horror of creation." To make the most of the fall weather—and maybe even get into the Halloween spirit—see event details on the next page.

*Continued on Page Eleven*

Greenway forests for food and other productivity that supports the people who take care of that forest, but only if we maintain what integrity these young and neglected forests have remaining to them while we gather the resources to take on the task. Yet proposals like the misguided Mon-Oakland transportation connector and the Woods Village proposal from Oak Moss Consulting would sacrifice this resource for the rents they can collect on the buildings that displace our forest resource. This is no longer acceptable behavior from a society that claims to call itself "great" or even civilized. If we are to have a future worth contemplating, it will be from learning to cooperate not just with one another but with the ecological systems that support our existence. A system of governance and economy (literally, "system of place" oikos) that is counter to that end must change to fit this unbendable natural law or fall. Will it land on us, or will we catch it with hands ready to make something new?

# City Theatre - Continued from Page Ten

City Theatre Presents: *Frankenstein* by Manual Cinema

- Show runs nightly at 8 p.m., September 30 – October 18 (excluding Monday nights)
- Tickets: \$25/person, children under 7 do not require a ticket.
- To purchase tickets or find more information, including Covid requirements, please visit [citytheatre.culturaldistrict.org](http://citytheatre.culturaldistrict.org).



Frankenstein by Manual Cinema plays at Hazelwood Green Photo: City Theatre

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## Is Now the Perfect Time to Remodel?

By Julie & Ted Block

The coronavirus completely changed the way we live in 2020. Now that we're all spending more time indoors, we've seen many homeowners take a critical look at their interiors and decide to make improvements. You've probably experienced it yourself. Maybe you're tired of the leaky kitchen faucet. Maybe the scratched wooden floor in the living room has become an eyesore. Or maybe the shower stall has simply seen better days.

Whatever the issue, 2020 has proven that anytime is the right time to remodel your home. Now that you're spending more time indoors, you might finally have the time to touch up your house—especially with the holidays on the way. If you plan on hosting family or friends for the winter holidays, you still have time to fix up the house before the festivities begin.

### Tips for Remodeling

If you're considering a remodel in October or November, here's some advice you might find useful. We have tackled dozens of remodels and learned some great tips along the way. In our most recent project, we added storage and counter space to our kitchen and gave it a cosmetic lift.

#### 1. Think about the rooms you spend the most time in.

Many of the homeowners we've talked to are tackling the kitchen, living room, or bedroom during their quarantine remodel simply because they are spending more time than ever in these rooms. If you've found yourself digging into your mom's old recipe cards or experimenting with different steak rubs, you may have spotted some critical flaws in your kitchen prep space that you could address with a remodel. You may have experienced similar revelations in your living room. Maybe you've noticed a daytime glare on the wall-mounted TV, or that the carpet just doesn't seem as vibrant as it did when you moved in a few years ago. Whatever you've noticed, make a note of it and consider what could make it even better.

#### 2. Keep your activities indoors.

The colder months can actually be a good time for certain outdoor projects. If you have to dig into the ground, the frozen solid ground and dry air is preferable over mud and the usual Pittsburgh humidity. But unless you have the right equipment, that frozen ground means you'll have your work cut out for you! So, even if you want a small addition on the back porch or an ex-

tension on your sidewalk, you may want to wait until the warm weather arrives in the spring.

#### 3. If it's your first project, start small!

Many homeowners have used their time at home to try their hand at home improvement projects. Whether you're trying to hang bookshelves for the first time or replacing the kitchen sink, consider the amount of experience you have going in. Even if you've read every article and watched all of the how-to videos, you may want to practice first on a small scale with some scrap wood or old appliances to make sure you have the technique down.

#### 4. Consider the pros and cons of hiring professionals.

The coronavirus hasn't been eradicated yet, so you may have some concerns about allowing professionals into your home to lead some of the more complex elements of your project. Although many crews are taking precautions, you may still want to weigh the pros and cons.

The pros:

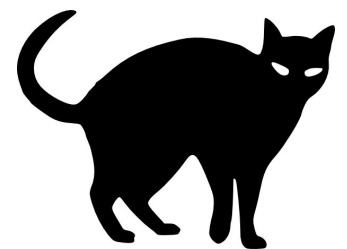
- A professional can get the job done right the first time.
- The project may go quicker.

The cons:

- A stranger could bring the coronavirus into your home.
- You have to be comfortable with someone working inside your home, perhaps while you're still there.

### Thinking Ahead

Remodeling can be a fun, exciting project with enormous benefits! In addition to making your home more comfortable, you may also increase its value. Before diving into your project, consider all of the factors to ensure it goes smoothly. We've seen our share of remodels in the past (Ted has flipped homes and we're actively renovating our new home), so we know some of the challenges you may run into. Feel free to reach out to us at [theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com](mailto:theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com) or by calling 412.926.7976.



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# Who is Bending PWSA Backward to Accommodate the Mon-Oakland Connector?

By Junction Coalition

Per usual, a number of disturbing revelations floated to the surface at PWSA's September 15 public meeting about the Four Mile Run Stormwater Improvement project. Highlights include:

- The plan calls for removing 900 trees from the Junction Hollow/Panther Hollow section of Schenley Park, according to Tim Nuttle of Civil & Environmental Consultants (CEC). Most of the trees slated for removal, Mr. Nuttle said, are located at the north end of Schenley Park in the Panther Hollow neighborhood. Presumably, this total does not include trees that would be cut down by the controversial Mon-Oakland Connector (MOC) road through Schenley Park.
- Part of the project attempts to address the large amounts of runoff from the Parkway East overpass that cuts through The Run but, despite talks between PWSA and PennDOT, there is currently no plan for PennDOT to share any of the costs.
- The MOC and the foot path have both been moved since the previous PWSA meeting on June 18 of this year. PWSA representatives said they heard that people didn't want the walking trail right next to the MOC, which is designed to accommodate motorized shuttles between Hazelwood Green and the university campuses in Oakland. The foot path, in the latest PWSA presentation, has been moved to the other side of the soccer field. The MOC has also changed course, but in the presentation a photo covered a critical turn in its path. Before reaching the southern entrance to Schenley Park, where they diverge at the soccer field, the two paths are still side by side. Twitter user @Bram\_R recalled, "When [residents] asked about the safety of that, were told there'd be 'a piece of wood or something' separating [the MOC and foot path]."
- PWSA has spent months telling concerned residents that no model of the Four Mile Run Stormwater Improvement project exists that excludes the MOC. But during this most re-

cent meeting, PWSA representatives divulged that such a model does exist. According to this new narrative, the MOC was added to the stormwater models after initial public meetings where residents expressed concerns about how a new asphalt road (and associated removal of trees) would affect the project's ability to address the flooding issue in The Run.

MOC opponents contend that the MOC—a development project designed to lure corporations to Hazelwood Green—should not take precedence over the stormwater project. The core project in Schenley Park has long been considered "technically challenging" even without incorporating a new road. PWSA continues to withhold the MOC-free model from residents, and did not use it in their chart where they showed a net benefit in flood control. The presentation implied that this positive result is because of MOC, rather than despite MOC. Without an MOC-free model, the road's true impact on flood control cannot be measured.

- Discussion of "BMPs" (best management practices) revealed that the BMPs in question were "swales," or ditches, to hold runoff from the MOC road. These deep ditches are placed directly next to the youth soccer field.
- After the June PWSA board meeting, PWSA executive director Will Pickering responded to resident concerns over undue influence over PWSA by Mayor William Peduto and the private interests that define his administration's agenda. A resident had stated that all except one board member were nominated directly by Mayor Peduto. Mr. Pickering clarified via email, "Ms. [Margaret] Lanier's initial term on the PWSA Board was prior to Mayor Peduto's term(s) as Mayor, but all appointments to the PWSA board are nominated by the Mayor and approved by Council. Ms. Lanier's most recent nomination was indeed put forward by Mayor Peduto."

At the September stormwater project meeting, PWSA Chief of Program Management, Alex Sciuilli, elaborated that a committee formed by Mayor Peduto chose the

latest round of PWSA board nominations. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the committee is "chaired by Mark Nordenberg, University of Pittsburgh chancellor emeritus and chair of the Institute of Politics. The other members... include Community College of Allegheny County President Quintin Bullock, former Regional Asset District Executive Director David Donahoe, Women for a Healthy Environment Executive Director Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis and Heinz Endowments President Grant Oliphant." The Heinz Endowments is one of three foundations that comprise Almono Limited Partnership, which owns the vast majority of the Hazelwood Green site—the development of which MOC is intended to bolster.

Mayor Peduto, a longtime proponent of MOC, faces an estimated \$100 million budget shortfall this year because of COVID-19. The City's capital budget includes \$23 million for MOC over the next few years—\$9 million for 2021 alone. Approximately \$2 million has already been spent on "community outreach"—marketing efforts to convince residents of affected communities they should abandon efforts to stop the road from being built. Mayor Peduto's chief of staff, Dan Gilman, tweeted on September 15: "Today, City Council approved the Mayor's 3 appointees to the @pgh2o board. These three women - BJ Leber, Rosamaria Cristello, and Dr. Audrey Murrell are going to be tremendous leaders in helping PWSA continue to modernize and provide a safe and reliable water system."

When @Bram\_R commented that "it's going around that these 3 new board members came off a list given to the Mayor by Pitt & CMU, and that they're 'their' appointees. [With] Almono nearby as well, [residents] have a lot of concerns that their neighborhood is being slated for gentrification." Mr. Gilman responded, "This is completely untrue. The names came from suggestions by the PWSA Board Nominating Committee that was publicly announced and part of the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel." The panel Mr. Gilman mentioned includes Jared Cohon, former president of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU).

Twitter user @BarbWarwick2 replied to Mr. Gilman with background

on the three new board members: "Looks like Ms. Cristello works at CMU and Dr. Murrell at Pitt. Ms. Leber is CEO at adagio health, which is associated with UPMC. All very accomplished women indeed, but the 'eds and meds' comment is not wrong. PWSA board could use at least one or two resident advocates, no?"

Asked why the PWSA's June presentation accounted for only \$14 million of the \$40 million project budget, PWSA acting senior manager of public affairs Rebecca Zito responded in an email, "The remaining funding can go towards future projects in the upper portions of the watershed, provide opportunities to collaborate with the universities and other community organizations on future stormwater projects, or revisit some of the original green infrastructure projects planned for Panther Hollow Stream and Phipps Run."

After decades of steadily worsening floods in The Run and avowals from city officials that they lacked funds to fix it, residents have every right to demand that the \$40 million secured for the Four Mile Run Stormwater Improvement project addresses their dire public safety need rather than accommodating a project to benefit The Heinz Endowments, the University of Pittsburgh, CMU, and a handful of other private entities. Yet these very entities have been tasked with overseeing the PWSA and its execution of the Four Mile Run Stormwater Improvement project.

You can view the June PWSA presentation at: [pgh2o.com/sites/default/files/2020-06/20200618\\_PWSA\\_4MR\\_PublicMeetingPresentation\\_20200618-1455\\_emh\\_FINAL.pdf](https://pgh2o.com/sites/default/files/2020-06/20200618_PWSA_4MR_PublicMeetingPresentation_20200618-1455_emh_FINAL.pdf).

PWSA has promised to post a recording of the September 15 meeting and the presentation on their website soon.

Additional online sources:

- [post-gazette.com/local/city/2020/02/27/Peduto-nominating-committee-expand-PWSA-board-pittsburgh-water-sewer-authority/stories/202002270151](https://post-gazette.com/local/city/2020/02/27/Peduto-nominating-committee-expand-PWSA-board-pittsburgh-water-sewer-authority/stories/202002270151)
- [hazelwoodgreen.com/owners](https://hazelwoodgreen.com/owners)
- [twitter.com/danielgilman/status/1305883316235706370](https://twitter.com/danielgilman/status/1305883316235706370)

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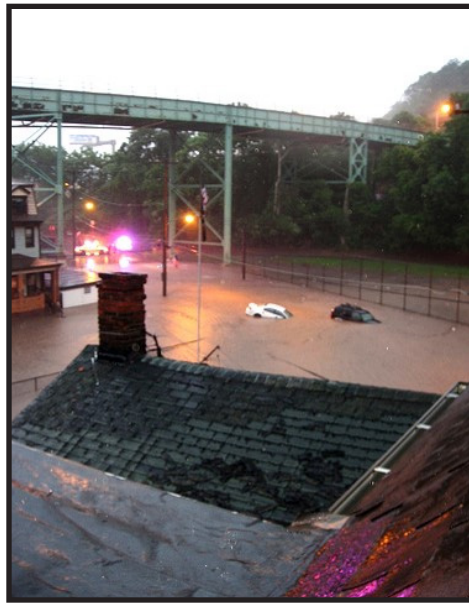


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## Project Elsewhere

By Ray Gerard

The Run, and residents were kept in the dark about the plan for years.



When announced as a done deal through a news article in August of 2015, Run residents staged a revolt. They demanded that city officials fix the problem of desperately needed flood relief, and adamantly rejected a roadway through their community. Within a few months came the 2016 flood, and the city was dripping wet with embarrassment. News reports, including photos and video of the damage, finally revealed to the public the chronic neglect caused by the city's practice of spending unsparring amounts of money for corporate welfare deals, but nearly nothing for basic lifesaving infrastructure.

Although the city was caught with its waders down, officials told residents they'd have to produce a comprehensive survey showing that flooding is an issue in order to secure the money to fix it. Afterwards, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) entered the story with its own troubled history, announcing that \$40 million was acquired to fix the problem. But as predictable as the next flood, folks were told the stormwater mitigation work would include the community erasing MOC.

The 4 Mile Run Stormwater project is complicated, and to include an approximately half-mile long (39,600 sq ft) impervious surface that eliminates a great deal of old-growth tree canopy from the next-door park (officials confirmed at least 900 trees to start) would most likely harm flood control. That amount of paving would generate about 295,000 gallons of runoff. Every 1 acre of impervious surface generates about 27,000 gallons of runoff for each 1 inch of rain and Pittsburgh has seen a range from around 36 – 60 inches of rain over the last 10 years.

After the initial presentation of the plan, multiple engineering experts approached residents, affirming that adding the roadway could harm flood control, and most importantly, revealing that the overall plan would not sufficiently address The Run's flooding. The majority of flooding comes from the other end of the Watershed—Squirrel Hill/Greenfield—and not the Oakland/Schenley Park end, where the main leg of the proposed MOC project would be.

The Run has experienced periodic 25, and even 75-year floods as well as regular 10-year events within the last 15 years. In 2009, a 75-year event caused some residents' basements to fill with 70+ inches of water and sewage. But on June 18th, 2020 the PWSA revealed that their flood mitigation project is designed for a 10-year flood event. The water/sewage mix of a 75-year flood event would be reduced by 45% with a 10-year flood event plan according to a PWSA official at a September 15th meeting. But that would still leave approximately 38+ inches of water and sewage in resident basements. PWSA officials are claiming this is acceptable, but residents would still continue the on-going task of decontaminating their homes and replacing their furnaces, hot water tanks and washers and dryers out-of-pocket, due to an inadequate plan and their inability to acquire flood insurance.



Documents acquired through RTK (Right to Know) requests show that the Mayor's office and their private partners' concerns are not with the plight of residents, but elsewhere. Meeting minutes dated February 22, 2019 show Mayor Chief of Staff Dan Gilman saying that the messaging to residents must be improved because residents, "Have an expectation that this project will eliminate their flooding." He also described the overall project as, "A clusterf@\$.k." Rather than focus the 40 million dollars on the actual life-threatening chronic prob-

lem, the city and private partners are more concerned with "messaging" and driving the project to force the inclusion of an unwanted, non-essential and publicly subsidized private development roadway through The Run. The solution-looking-for-a-problem MOC project will also drain an additional 23 million dollars from our city capital budget instead of much-needed infrastructure and real transportation solutions.

The economic effects of the Coronavirus on Pittsburgh prompted the Mayor's recent announcement of a projected 115-million-dollar deficit this year, and an admission that major development projects would have to be delayed by years. Logic dictates—and morality demands—that all of the above reasons should be proof enough to scrap the MOC, and shift a good bit of the \$40 million to the other end of the watershed to effectively address the majority cause of chronic flooding.

Residents of The Run and their growing coalition of allies continue to push back against the rising waters and the corrupt practices of private interests who wish to construct yet another publicly subsidized private development project that benefits only a handful of insiders. Eventually, Run residents may build an ark and sail it to City Hall to force accountability; perhaps in time for the May 2021 primary election, where city residents can send Mayor Peduto elsewhere.

For more information: [junctioncoalition.org](http://junctioncoalition.org)

If you would like to support residents in The Run, contact city officials and demand they fix the flooding and redirect taxpayer money to responsible infrastructure/transportation solutions:

Mayor William Peduto- 412-255-2626  
PWSA- 412-255-2423  
District 5 Councilman Corey O'Connor- 412-255-8965

***'Project Elsewhere' was rerun in its intended form from the September 2020 issue of The Homepage, wherein a technical error cut the article short.***

## Halloween During Covid: Fun Alternative Activities with Family

By Gerri Tipton

None of us expected the Covid pandemic to last as long as it has. The whole country has been affected and we've all had to make major changes in our lives between school, work, having our children home schooled, and more. With the holiday season approaching, there will be even more major changes to adapt to, like no haunted houses and no trick or treating for the kids. Trick or treating has been one of my favorite activities growing up as a kid. Dressing up every year as a different character really brought out the fun and creativity I had. There were even times where once our candy bags got loaded, we would drop them off at home and go back out to other areas of the neighborhood we hadn't hit just to get more candy. Once the festivities were over, we would come home, eat some candy and watch our favorite Halloween movies.

But, this year for trick or treaters, things will have to change. Due to Covid, trick or treating has been cancelled, which means no going door to door getting some of your favorite candy. I know, what a bummer! But it doesn't mean that Halloween fun has to be cancelled for everyone. I came up with some alternatives you can do in the house with your kids and family to still celebrate and have fun.

### Still dress up in your favorite Halloween costume.

Just because you aren't going anywhere, does not mean that you still can't enjoy Halloween. If you have children, make small candy bags for them, dress up in a costume, and play some games and watch movies. Kids love the idea of having fun anyway, even if it is in the house; they will make the best out of it.

### Make special treats.

This is the perfect time to make Halloween cookies, cupcakes, a kid friendly punch, edible eyeballs, anything to get them in the Halloween spirit. This is also a good time to decorate your house.

### Arts and crafts.

Every kid loves to draw and show off their talent. Pumpkin carving

and painting are always a fun go-to activity, so make a trip to your local Dollar Tree and get all the supplies you need for your kids to enjoy and show off their creativity.

### Dance party.

All kids love to dance. Throw on some of the kids' favorite songs, or some Halloween dance music and throw a dance party. This will also wear the kids out to the point where they'll be knocked out by bedtime.

### Have a small gathering.

It's still okay to meet up in small groups since we moved into the green phase. I would do a small party of a close circle of friends of no more than about 10 people. That way, the kids would still be able to enjoy being around other people to celebrate with them.

### Halloween scavenger hunt.

This is similar to an Easter egg hunt, but of course for Halloween. You could decorate your front and back yards, and hide small candy bags outside and inside your house for the kids to collect and put in their Halloween bags. This way, the kids will still have a feel for trick or treating, only it will be in the comfort of their own home.

If you don't feel like staying inside for Halloween, there are other options like the drive-in movie theater, a drive-through haunted house, or even a Halloween drive-by parade. I saw some people celebrate their birthdays by having a drive-by parade where people would honk their horns and hang signs out of their cars. This can go the same way with your kids, by decorating your car or their bikes.

There are plenty of other ideas and alternatives you can do with your friends and the kids to still celebrate Halloween. Hopefully the ones I listed you will keep in mind for this year. Remember, the goal is to have fun and make the best out of the situation, so put on your thinking caps and get creative. Happy Halloween!

## Concerned Citizen Corner: Black Lives Matter

By Homer Craig

*I wrote this article based on my opinions, beliefs, experience, and views. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Hazelwood Initiative or The Homepage.*

African Proverb:

“When you shoot a zebra in the black stripe, the white dies too; shoot it in the white and the black dies too.”

Black Lives Matter is a slogan and generally refers to unarmed African American men, women, and children unnecessarily killed by authorities or pseudo-authorities. A true but incomplete representation. The mistreatment and labor theft of kidnapped Africans by privileged plantation planter class is just the tip of the iceberg!

Black Lives Matter includes our indigenous sisters and brothers who suffered governmental genocide long before the Holocaust, though they too remained patriotic and were instrumental (Navajo Code Talkers) in American WWII victory! Black Lives Matter includes our Mexican and other South American brothers and sisters called derogatory terms, yet descendants of the privileged plantation planter class mentality find no problem exploiting their agricultural expertise, though I seriously doubt any of the immigrants' original governments will finance any foreign walls.

Black Lives Matter also includes our Asian and Indian brothers and sisters whose labor and intellectual abilities were and are still exploited by descendants of the privileged plantation planter class. Black Lives Matter includes our white sisters

who still do not have pay equity because of descendants of the privileged plantation class. If you doubt the veracity of this statement, then explain why the Fourteenth Amendment proceeds the Nineteenth Amendment. I am sure Gloria Steinem can clarify it.

Last, but not least, I want to explain that our economically least-privileged white brothers should also feel Black Lives Matter applies to them. We are all in this together. In slavery times, the privileged plantation planter class found it more beneficial to steal a kidnapped African's labor than to pay a poor white man living wages. Believe it or not we are all in the same boat, so please stop putting holes in the hull before you drown us all! We are part of the same zebra.

Make America Great Again (MAGA) is also a slogan, but hardly original! It reminds me of slogans promulgated by A. Schicklgruber and Joseph Goebbels in the 1930s. A. Schicklgruber's statement, an echo of Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov's, shared a common belief: “A lie told often enough becomes the truth.” In case you didn't know, America has been great since it shed the shackles of colonialism and stepped into the sunshine of self-determination! How often have you heard the lie that Barack Obama is not a US citizen? If one lie is known, how many more are unknown? And that is as dangerous as a cobra hidden in the grass. Did self-serving political mendacity needlessly cost hundreds of thousands of American lives? In conclusion, I hope this article helps improve your quality of life. Remember: Many gave their lives to give the gift of the vote. Do not waste this blood gift.

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## Local Writers

### The Twelve Disciples of Evil

A Story by John Werthman

Call me deadly; call me a silent killer, a serial predator. I am undoubtedly disrespectful of social boundaries. My victims span no specific age group or sex. I have been inflicting mayhem on humankind before he evolved into his modern form.

I have ravaged his body and inflicted a slow and agonizing death. Some of my compatriots have made the leap from the animal kingdom to humans. I considered this a remarkable feat, but hey, we put in a lot of serious effort.

Left unchecked, I can kill millions without stress or difficulty. It almost seems too easy. At times it takes man a little too long to comprehend the nature of the beast. He doesn't understand the power behind my weapons. I don't destroy buildings or alter the landscape, no need. When man is gone, the alters he has constructed will fall into disrepair.

I enamored with the name the medical field has bestowed upon me. They refer to me as a virus; a member of any large group of sub-microscopic infectious agents that are usually regarded as non-living, but do I thrive on the cells of a living host! Does a mouse love cheese?

I prefer to dress in my finest during my attacks—one must look their best. My hosts have worn ornate crowns and regal robes, but even sackcloth will suffice. I love to see humans congregate in large groups. That is like an invitation for me to party. Oh, do I love to party.

I have no specific time to entertain my quests. I can prey at night, during the day, I don't need sleep. I can even evolve. My plan is akin to a game of sleight of hand. Just when man thinks I am ripe for conquering, evolution may occur. Compare

me to Harry Houdini. You thought I was in your left hand; now I'm in your right.

I genuinely strive to entertain the two words that man uses to describe my joy ride: epidemic and pandemic. Either will ring true to my ear. Epidemics are good starts for my endeavor, but a pandemic is my real goal. I've always wanted to conquer the world, like a Caesar or Alexander the Great. Those guys knew how to swing a sword.

One aspect of man's defense system is his use of acronyms to try and fool me. I know who you are, CDC, WHO. You may think the use of these terms may hide your genuine attempt to eradicate me. It won't work. They are just names.

I would now like to introduce my Twelve Disciples. We are similar to the FBI's most-wanted list and considered the twelve deadliest viruses on earth. Now, this list may evolve; it is not static. My band of brothers includes the following: Marburg, Ebola, Rabies, HIV, Smallpox, Hantavirus, Influenza, Dengue, Rotavirus, SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), MERS-CoV. These last three belong to my favorite family, the Coronaviruses.

I like to think that we are always in training, waiting to emerge for the big event, make a big splash. You can run, but you can't hide. I'll be waiting for you. Catch me if you can.

*John Werthman is a 73-year-old retired quality assurance and safety supervisor for the steel industry. Since his retirement just a few years ago, he was stung by the writing bug, and creative writing quickly became his new passion.*

### Reader Call: The Six Word Challenge

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

Check out the latest prompt submissions and the poems created by local writers, Esther Waller and Dawn Marie Dull, below!

**Write a 6-word poem about meditation.**

Jesus, I pray, guide me today.

**Write a 6-word poem about how writing poetry affects you.**

Poetry's words rhyme, makes life shine

**Write a 6-word poem about a change you'd like to see in 2021.**

Trump you're fired, Biden you're hired.

—Esther Waller

**Write a 6-word poem about meditation.**

Slip softly into Peace's warm embrace.

**Write a 6-word poem about how writing poetry affects you.**

In the moment, I am placed.

**Write a 6-word poem about a change you'd like to see in 2021.**

Love bridging the gaps that separate.

—Dawn Marie Dull

**Here are prompts for next month's issue!**

**Please submit your work by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

Write a 6-word poem about:

- Something you'd like to say to Donald Trump.
- The end of summer.
- A memory that haunts you.



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## Vitamin B Study Shows Improved Covid-19 Outcomes



Dear Friends,

Vitamin B could help prevent the “worst outcomes” in COVID-19 cases, experts say. Doctors remain focused on finding a treatment to slow or stop the deadly immune overreaction to COVID-19 known as a “cytokine storm.” As they do, experts in the nutrition world are aiming to find ways to stop it before it begins. Early on in the pandemic, these recommendations from health experts focused on vitamin C and vitamin D, both of which can significantly strengthen the immune system. But now, in a new study published in the international peer-reviewed journal *Maturitas*, researchers suggest that another, equally important vitamin is being overlooked: vitamin B.

The study, a joint collaboration between researchers at the University of Oxford, United Arab Emirates University and the University of Melbourne, called for more analysis of its effects on patients with COVID-19. “Vitamin B ... plays a pivotal role in cell functioning, energy metabolism and proper immune function,” the authors write. “Vitamin B assists in proper activation of both the innate and adaptive immune responses, reduces pro-inflammatory cytokine levels, improves respiratory function, maintains endothelial integrity, prevents hypercoagulability and can reduce the length of stay in hospital.”

While the study itself did not analyze the effects of vitamin B on COVID-19 patients, the authors say existing evidence on how it functions suggests that it would be extremely beneficial. “Vitamin B not only helps to build and maintain a healthy immune system, but it could potentially prevent or reduce COVID-19 symptoms or treat SARS-CoV-2 infection,” they write. “Poor nutritional status predisposes people to infections more easily; therefore, a balanced diet is necessary for im-

muno-competence.” Overall, they conclude that vitamin B “should be assessed” in COVID-19 patients as a potential nonpharmaceutical “adjunct to current treatments.”

So, what is vitamin B exactly? Vitamin B complex—made up of eight different essential types, including B-2 (riboflavin), B-6 and B-12—affects many parts of the body, assisting with critical functions such as eyesight, red blood cell growth, proper digestion, energy levels, heart health, and brain and nerve function. B vitamins can be found in a variety of foods including red meat, beans, milk, cheese, broccoli, spinach, avocados and brown rice. Despite the availability of vitamin B-rich foods, many Americans may be deficient in this nutrient and not even know it. According to a blog post from Harvard University, using the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, “3.2 percent of adults over age 50 have a seriously low B12 level” and “up to 20 percent may have a borderline vitamin B12 deficiency.” A deficiency in certain strains, such as vitamin B12, can be serious, resulting in an insufficient number of healthy red blood cells, which are used to fight off infection. Symptoms of vitamin B deficiency can range from fatigue, shortness of breath and dizziness to personality changes, muscle weakness and unsteady movements.

Dr. Uma Naidoo, a nutrition expert at Harvard Medical School and director of Nutritional and Lifestyle Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital, urges caution when interpreting the results, which are not meant to suggest that vitamin B can either prevent or treat COVID-19. But still, she agrees that it may have major benefits. “You can think of the immune system as an army. Its job is to protect the body. But if the immune system army isn’t well-regulated, it can overreact and actually cause more damage. This overreaction is what often happens in COVID-19 and is referred to as the cytokine storm,” Naidoo tells Yahoo Life. “Cytokines are inflammatory molecules released by immune cells. They are like the weapons of the immune system army. So, if immune cells are soldiers, cytokines are guns and grenades. And in a poorly regulated immune system, the body’s cytokine storm induced by COVID causes lots of inflam-

mation in the body, just as if little grenades were being tossed around. This is what causes the worst outcomes and death in COVID.”

Naidoo and her co-researcher, Nicholas Norwitz (PhD candidate at Oxford University), does think that vitamin B may have an effect. “It follows that anything that improves immune system function and decreases the chances that an infected person will have a catastrophic cytokine storm may improve the outcome of COVID-19 cases and decrease the overall death rate,” Naidoo says. “Therefore, it’s quite feasible that B-vitamin supplementation could contribute to preventing the worst COVID outcomes.” Although the news is promising, more research on the topic is needed, and individuals should consult their doctor before adding supplements to their diet. But until then, Naidoo hopes that the research will be a reminder of how important it is to have a balanced diet. “All Americans should be focusing on their

overall metabolic health to improve their individual chances of coping well with the virus...,” she says. “To this end, our everyday basics on nutrition are critical.”

To Your Health,

Susan Merenstein,  
Pharmacist and Owner  
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# Wolf Administration Awards \$10 Million to Fund Access to Fresh Food, COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts in Low-Income Communities; Hazelwood's Dylamato's Market Among Recipients

Press Release

At Karimar Grocery in Franklin County today, Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding and Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin announced that more than 100 projects, funding access for fresh food in low-income communities, have received grants through Pennsylvania's \$10 million Fresh Food Financing Initiative.

"There are three keys to food security—Is food available, is food affordable, and is food safe?" said Redding. "The Fresh Food Financing Initiative helps make 'yes' the answer to all three questions. Early in the pandemic, we were all shocked by the empty grocery store shelves. This program has given us the ability to offset the costs food retailers have incurred in making fresh, nutritious food available while safeguarding their employees and customers."

The Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI) was funded at \$10 million through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and opened in July to for-profit, nonprofit, or cooperative entities including grocery stores, corner stores, convenience stores, neighborhood markets, bodegas, food hubs, mobile markets, farmers markets, on-farm markets, urban farms, and food aggregation centers with a direct connection to direct-to-consumer retail outlets.

To be eligible, more than 70 percent of sales were required to be from staple, perishable foods to consumers and the retailer must serve customers who live in a low-to-moderate income area. Applicants were also required to demonstrate limited food access as a result of COVID-19 or that direct-to-consumer retail expansion is necessary due to lost or disrupted markets. Eligible applicants were required to accept SNAP and WIC or have plans to accept them through completion of the project.

"The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the challenges that many Pennsylvanians face in accessing fresh, local food," said Davin. "The Fresh Food Financing Initiative was developed to ensure that no one in our commonwealth will struggle to

fill their pantry and the food supply chain will remain stable, whether during a crisis, emergency, or during times of normalcy."

Karimar Grocery, a minority, woman-owned neighborhood store in Chambersburg, experienced increased demand for perishable and staple food products throughout the pandemic. Their \$55,000 grant will fund the purchase of equipment—such as refrigerators, freezers, coolers, and a meat grinder—to allow them to store more fresh meat, dairy, and produce and will cover expenditures already made to create a safe, healthy shopping environment in the low-income, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community they serve.

"It is important to keep residents of the commonwealth safe and informed. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the Latino community, placing this population at a greater disadvantage," said Luz B. Colón, executive director to the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs. "Programs like the Fresh Food Financing Initiative help secure food resources to our minority communities and ensure that it will reach the families that need it the most."

The \$10 million FFFI grant program funded 115 projects in 39 counties. The projects fund expenses related to PPE and other in-store COVID-19 mitigation efforts, expansions, refrigeration, online marketing materials, mobile market enhancements, and more. A full list of funded projects can be found online. Applicants could apply for impacts related to COVID-19 incurred between March 1, 2020 and November 30, 2020, such as:

- Higher operating costs related to cleaning and social distancing requirements, including costs related to outside contracting associated with managing social distancing, limited occupancy, and cleaning;
- Infrastructure improvements, including renovation, new construction, or adaptive reuse directly related to COVID-19;
- Equipment purchases that improve the availability of quality fresh food, such as additional re-

frigeration to manage volume, or personal protective equipment such as plexiglass dividers;

- Inventory (higher cost of goods, higher transportation or delivery costs, or procuring Pennsylvania-grown produce, meat, and dairy products, or loss of product);
- Innovative food access technology such as mobile or pop-up markets, or mobile EBT reader technology;
- Costs to expand access to Pennsylvania grown or processed produce, dairy, and meat products or provide stable market access for Pennsylvania farmers that have lost or limited markets; and
- Other one-time or increased expenses incurred related to COVID-19.

For more information on the Fresh Food Financing Initiative or about the Wolf Administration's efforts surrounding food security, visit [agriculture.pa.gov](http://agriculture.pa.gov). For information

as it relates to agriculture during COVID-19 mitigation in Pennsylvania visit [agriculture.pa.gov/COVID](http://agriculture.pa.gov/COVID). For the most accurate, timely information related to health in Pennsylvania, visit [on.pa.gov/coronavirus](http://on.pa.gov/coronavirus).

**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Shannon Powers, Ag - [shpowers@pa.gov](mailto:shpowers@pa.gov)  
Casey Smith, DCED - [casesmith@pa.gov](mailto:casesmith@pa.gov)

*\*Editor's note: Dylamato's Market on Second Ave. will be awarded \$25,750 to add and upgrade equipment to increase their capacity to store and display locally produced food, specifically pastries. As a woman-owned business in an underserved community that frequently partners with local and micro businesses, including Hazelwood's own 'Tis So Sweet (Mildred 'MeeMee' Williams), Dylamato's looked to be an ideal candidate for this support.*



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