



Volume 11, No. 5

May 2022

Sidewalks are transportation infrastructure, so why can't the city maintain them?

By Juliet Martinez

Cracked. Uneven. A tripping hazard. At the Hazelwood community meeting in February, Pastor Lutual Love stood up to speak. He said he was tired of unsafe neighborhoodsidewalks in poor condition.

"Those sidewalks are lifted up. They've been lifted for years, and we've been asking for help." He said city money should fix basic neighborhood infrastructure like sidewalks. But it turns out the problem is more complicated.

Sidewalks in Greater Hazelwood are often in poor condition. The Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan lists sidewalks among its top three mobility priorities.

"It is important that the approach to filling in the sidewalk infrastructure follow the community's goals of development without displacement," the plan reads. "And not penalize low-income property owners for whom sidewalk repair is cost-prohibitive," it continues.

In April, I called Mike Panzitta, project manager for the Irvine Avenue sidewalk project, at the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI). He said the part of a property where sidewalks andcurbs lie is a public right of way. It isn't taxable, but in the eyes of the city, it is the responsibility of the homeowner. If the city owns the land, DOMI is responsible for the sidewalk.

So, what can Hazelwood and Pittsburgh residents do to make sidewalks safer without burdening moderate- and low-income households?

Sidewalks are essential for people to walk and wheel safely around the neighborhood, whether for health, commerce or to get to public transit. Unsafe sidewalks can keep people

A time to celebrate foster parents and families

By TRAC Services for Families



Foster kids and their families get supplies at a TRAC back-to-school event. Learn more about becoming a foster parent at "Connecting Roots, Connecting Families" on May 21 from 12-3 p.m. at Homestead Waterfront circle. Photo by Ja-Neen Jones

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to acknowledge the tremendous need for foster parents throughout the country.

Every year more than 25,000 youth age out of the child welfare system

with no permanent connections to a family. Foster parents are critical in giving youth the healthy relationships necessary for emotional, mental and developmental attachment they need.

A disproportionate number of children of color are in foster care. Those children need foster families of color, or culturally humble foster parents of other cultures, to care for them and help them grow.

Ja-Neen Jones is the Director of • Adoption & Foster Care Services at • TRAC Services for Families. She oversees TRAC's Black Adoption • Services and foster care department.

There are not enough foster homes in Allegheny County to meet the specialized needs of youth in care, Ms. Jones said. TRAC Services for Families celebrates National Foster Care Month by raising the alarm.

Allegheny County Children Youth and Families (CYF) made signifi-

cant changes in 2021, according to Ms. Jones. They improved services, support, funding and programming for children and families connected to the child welfare system.

While the need for individuals to foster children of all ages is significant, the lack of families willing to foster youth in the following groups is critical.

- Teens ages 12-21 and their siblings
- African American children
- LGBTQ+ youth in need of affirming families
- Youth with physical, developmental, mental and/or emotional conditions and diagnosis in need of therapeutic foster homes

Foster homes for short- and longterm, emergency and respite resources are also critically needed.

During National Foster Care



Artist Alisha Wormsley's collage activity at the Arts Excursions Unlimited event in the Carnegie Library Hazelwood parking lot. See more Familiar Faces on pages 10 and 11. Photo by Juliet Martinez

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

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

Send letters and story ideas to: editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.

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

Sonya Tilghman, Executive Director (she/her) Juliet Martinez, Managing Editor (they/them) Sarah Kanar, Layout and Design (she/her)



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PUBLISHER'S PAGE HARPP protects rental housing from speculators

The loss of affordable housing stock to flippers and other speculators has accelerated during the pandemic, according to Leilani Farha, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Adequate Housing, and University of Pittsburgh H.J. Heinz Foundation Visiting Fellow in the Global Studies Center.

Dr. Farha sounded the alarm about this problem during a talk on Monday, April 4, at the University of Pittsburgh. She said corporate investors here and around the world have pounced on lower-priced residential units during the pandemic.

"I would be prioritizing the protection of any and every existing affordable unit," she told an assembled crowd and online viewers. "[Investors are] looking for older stock that is still affordable that they can mine for wealth."

This is why the Hazelwood Affordable Rental Property Preservation is so important. On April 1, Hazelwood Initiative closed on the last 19 rental properties for this program, bringing the total number of HARPP units to 60. These will remain affordable (Section 8) for low-income families for the next 30 years.



Ms. Dorine Morse in the kitchen of her new HARPP unit. Photo courtesy of HARPP, LLC

"The long-term preservation of affordable housing is increasingly important to prevent displacement as the neighborhood develops," said Sonya Tilghman, Hazelwood Initiative executive director. "By buying these units, maintaining them in good condition and reserving them for low-income residents, we are helping preserve the community and character of this neighborhood in line with our neighborhood plan."

	GREATER HAZELWOOD	Tuesday of the month!	Tuesday May 10th	
what may nions	VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETIN		pm - 8pm	
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	Hazelwood Initiative proudly serves all resi	dents of Hazelwood and Glen Haz	el. While anyone	

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

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

Title (circle one) Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms. Mx.	Dr.	
Name (first and last)		
Address		
Email	@	
Phone	Mobile	Landline (circle one)
Age		
Renter Homeowner (circle one)		
Race		
Racial makeup of household		
Return to: Hazelwood Initiative, 4901 Second Ave.	, Pittsburgh, PA	15207

COMMUNITY RESOURCES HOUSING AND UTILITY AID Apply for

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS

The Pennsylvania Homeowner's Assistance Fund helps keep homeowners from falling behind or losing their home through foreclosure.

Learn more and apply for aid at https://pahaf.org/, or call (888) 987-2423.

HOUSING LEGAL AID FOR

RENTERS AND HOMEOWNERS Tenant Services: Mediation, limited legal consultation, full legal representation Homeowner Services: Tangled title, foreclosure prevention.

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

Non-English speakers, please call: (412)-530-5244

PWSA BILL ASSISTANCE

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

HEATING BILL ASSISTANCE

The low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) pays your utility company from \$500 to \$1,500 to keep your heat on in the winter. This money does NOT need repaid. Low-income renters or homeowners do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify. Create an account and apply at http://www.compass.state.pa.us/. Download an application at https:// tinyurl.com/liheap-2021-2022application and return it to the county public assistance office. Learn more:

https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/ Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx

RESOURCES FOR FINDING AF-FORDABLE HOUSING

https://www.publicsource.org/ pittsburgh-allegheny-countyaffordable-housing-service-guide/

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a U.S. government program that helps many low-income households pay for broadband services and internet connected devices.

Apply for affordable broadband service at https://ACPBenefit.org

Call (877) 384-2575 M-F 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Email questions to ACPSupport@usac. org

ARE YOU CLOSE TO HAVING YOUR WATER SHUT OFF?

Apply for up to \$5000 of water or sewer bill aid through the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program. If you are behind on your water or sewer bills, at risk of having service cut off or have already had service shut off, you can apply for free aid. Up to \$2,500 each for water and sewer is available to low-income applicants.

Go to www.dhs.pa.gov/waterhelp for information on how to apply.

WATER AND SEWER OUTAGES

Find out where current and planned water and sewer outages will happen. https://www.pgh2o.com/projectsmaintenance/service-outages

PWSA can notify renters about service outages in your area.

Call customer service at (412) 255-2423 (press 5) to update your contact information to receive notifications. Or fill out the web form at: https://tinyurl.com/

update-contact-info-pwsa

MEDIATION FOR RENTERS AND LANDLORDS

If a dispute with your landlord is putting your housing at risk, you need help with a housing conflict or communication with your landlord or tenant has broken down, contact Just Mediation for free mediation services that work with your schedule.

Email: info@justmediationpgh.org Call: (412) 228-0730 Web: www.justmediationpgh.org

DISCOUNT HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

Low- to moderate-income homeowners living in Greater Hazelwood: Get help maintaining and improving your home. Hazelwood Initiative will help you identify needed repairs, find a contractor and could cover up to 90% of the cost or up to \$12,000.

Call (412) 421-7234 and ask for Dave, Herc or Ray

Email hpappas@hazelwoodinitiative. org

HEALTHY HOMES

LEAD TESTING AND REMOVAL

There is no safe level of lead exposure! Allegheny County homeowners and renters can get FREE lead-paint testing in their homes and yards. The program covers up to \$12,000 of removal costs, including for repair and repainting of chipping and peeling lead-painted surfaces, window and door repair or replacement, and enclosing exterior trim and components.

For more information, call Hazelwood Initiative, (412) 421-7234 x 409, or email ttaulton@hazelwoodinitiatve.org

ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS

Rooftop solar panels reduce your utility bills and keep them low as prices rise. They also protect your health by lowering air pollution, and keeping your lights on during blackouts when paired with a storage battery. Sign up to find out if you can receive free rooftop solar panels or purchase them at a discount. Visit www.solarunitedneighbors.org/ allegheny and register for a Solar 101 webinar, or watch a pre-recorded webinar at the website. Email pateam@ solarunitedneighbors.org with questions.

WEATHER-PROOF YOUR HOME

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

AIR QUALITY MONITORS

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced last year that air pollution causes nearly 7 million deaths each year. Pittsburgh ranks fourth nationally in air pollution deaths. Take our survey about air quality in Hazelwood and you may qualify to receive a FREE Purple Air monitor. Go to https://tinyurl.com/ HZAQSURVEY

FOOD AND CLOTH-ING ASSISTANCE

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN CHAPEL OF HAZELWOOD

Food and clothing distribution:

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

5319 Second Avenue, 15207

FISHES AND LOAVES COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES

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

Congregate lunch: Eat-in or takehome lunch, Monday through Friday 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Emergency food boxes - pick up at Spartan Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. M-F or home delivery in a 15-mile radius of office. Call to arrange something for the weekends.

Grocery buying assistance

Phone: (412) 499-4313 - ask for Dylan Knapp-Scott

131 E. Elizabeth St, 15207

HAZELWOOD YMCA FOOD PANTRY

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

Pittsburgh, PA, 15207

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL PARISH FOOD PANTRY

Food distribution in the Saint Rosalia rectory building every Tuesday from 2-3 p.m.

(412) 621-4951 411 Greenfield Avenue, 15207

HEALTH MEDICAL AND COVID-19 RESOURCES

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AND TESTING Rite-Aid

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

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

THE CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

1405 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Rehabilitation and educational services for children with a range of needs. Behavioral therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy are available. Autism services include applied behavior analysis and social skills groups. The approved and licensed private academic day school serves autistic children and children with multiple disabilities ages 5-21. Transition services for children aged 14-21 to help prepare them for independent living. For more information, call (412) 420.2400 or visit https://amazingkids.org.

MEDICAL DEVICES LENDING LIBRARY - BETH SHALOM

Walkers, wheelchairs and canes available for short- or long-term loan to residents of Greenfield, Hazelwood, Squirrel Hill and Homestead. Local delivery available. Contact Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman at mgoodman@bethshalompgh.org or (412) 421-2288.

See www.bethshalompgh.org/ medicaldevices/ for more information.

Page 4 COMMUNITY RESOURCES HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL FAMILY AND SOCIAL-**EMOTIONAL SUPPORT**

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

JUST FOR TODAY NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUP

For anyone who has a loved one suffering from addiction, meetings are the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. First Hungarian Church - Calvin Hall 217 Johnston Avenue, 15207 Contact Cindy at (412) 421-7076

AUTISM URBAN CONNECTIONS

Parents and caregivers for children with autism and related disorders can meet in a safe space. Meetings are online every second Thursday of the month. Register at tinyurl.com/

SupportGroupRegistration.

Join Circles of Care, a 6-week program teaching parents and caregivers skills and techniques to improve your family's quality of life. Complete the course to be certified as a volunteer family engagement peer support.

Contact info@aucofpgh.org for more information.

GREATER HAZELWOOD FAMILY CENTER

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

CHURCHES

FIRST HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH

221 Johnston Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 421-0279

FOUNTAIN OF LIFE CHURCH 247 Johnston Ave Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 422-8794

www.fountainoflifepgh.co

HOLY ANGELS CHURCH

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

LUTHERAN CHAPEL

5319 Second Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 521-0844 www.holycrosspgh.info

KEYSTONE CHURCH OF HAZEL-WOOD

161 Hazelwood Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207, (412) 521-3468 https://www.centeroflife.net/

MARY S. BROWN-AMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Temporarily meeting at 515 West 8th Avenue Homestead, 15120 (412) 421-4431 info@brightredfence.org www.brightredfence.org

MORNINGSTAR BAPTIST

CHURCH 5524 Second Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 421-6269

PRAISE TEMPLE DELIVERANCE CHURCH

Pastor Lutual M. Love, Sr. 5400 Glenwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15207, (412) 277-0113

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

SOUIRREL HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

290 Bigelow Street, Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 521-2447

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

BAPTIST 4537 Chatsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 626-3232 info@stjohnpgh.org www.stjohnpgh.org

ST. ROSALIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

411 Greenfield Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 421-5766 info@saintpaulcathedral.org www.ghocatholics.org

ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

5115 Second Avenue Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 621-4951 info@saintpaulcathedral.org www.ghocatholics.org

STEEL CITY CHURCH

290 Bigelow Street Pittsburgh, 15207 (412) 342-8387 info@thesteelcitychurch.com www.thesteelcitychurch.com

WARRIORS OF HOLINESS IN POWER

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

HOTLINES AND **INFORMATION**

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

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

HAZELWOOD INITIATIVE COMMUNITY UPDATES

facebook.com/hazelwoodinitiative

PRAISE TEMPLE COMMUNITY HOTLINE

*Answering M-F, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (412) 422-1983

CENTER OF LIFE

Covid-19 Online Resource Guide Centeroflifeonline.net/covid

CAREER RESOURCES

JOB SEARCHING?

Businesses desperately need workers. But how do you find the right job? PublicSource asked local experts on job searching for resources and advice. Read more online at: https://tinyurl. com/pgh-job-search-tips

TRANSIT **RESOURCES**

ACCESS PARA-TRANSIT

ACCESS is a coordinated, shared-ride paratransit service providing door-todoor, advanced-reservation transportation in Allegheny County.

Visit https://myaccessride.com/ for more information.

HOMEPAGE **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

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

- The deadline for submissions is the second Friday of each month for publication the following month.
- Letters to the editor (up to 250 • words), requests for advice from our advice columnist (up to 50 words), opinion pieces and personal essays (250-500 words) are all welcome.
- School updates and event • announcements from nonprofit organizations and other neighborhood-based entities, are welcome.
- The Homepage reserves the right to decide what will appear in print.
- Submissions may be edited for length, grammar, punctuation and clarity.

ADVERTISE IN THE HOMEPAGE

- The Homepage offers affordable ٠ advertising rates to promote small businesses and the health of our neighborhood economy.
- Contact Sarah Kanar (skanar@) hazelwoodinitiative.org) for more information about buying ad space.
- Ads and contracts must be submitted by the second Friday of each month for publication the following month.
- Submissions and ads received • after the deadline may be declined or held for a future issue at the discretion of the editor.
 - Please direct your questions, suggestions and story ideas to Juliet Martinez, managing editor.

Email:

jmartinez@hazelwoodinitiative. org

Phone: (412) 421-7234 x406



Sidewalks

- Continued from Front Page at home unless they have access to a car.

To complain about an unsafe sidewalk, residents can call 311. A 311 operator I spoke with said they notify the Department of Permits, Licenses and Inspections. If an inspector finds the sidewalk in poor condition, they cite the property owner for a code violation. If the sidewalk is not fixed after three citations, the owner will have to go before a magistrate. Then they can either pay a fine or get the sidewalk fixed. A new sidewalk runs about \$8 per square foot.

For city-owned properties, 311 sends complaints to DOMI. Mr. Panzitta said he hopes with higher staffing levels the department will have greater agility in responding to sidewalk complaints.

But what about privately-owned sidewalks? How can the city address the mobility needs of residents who use walkers, wheelchairs and strollers? Could the city make Greater Hazelwood and all Pittsburgh sidewalks safely walkable?

I asked Councilman Corey O'Connor. He said the city does rebuild a sidewalk if a tree has damaged it. When I asked if the city could take responsibility for all sidewalk maintenance, he was skeptical. He said it would involve going onto private propert and be extremely pricey.

But PWSA goes onto private property to replace lead lines, right? He said the cost of that project only proves his point. According to pgh20.com, PWSA has spent more than \$100 million on lead-line replacement. But could it be done?

"There is always enough money to be solving our issues," said Dan Yablonsky, Pittsburghers for Public Transit's director of communications and development.

"It's just, you know, where are our public priorities?"

Mr. Yablonsky asked why private citizens should be responsible for public transportation infrastructure. And why, in such a wealthy country, are resources not distributed so sidewalk maintenance and access is more equitable?

"It is not a sustainable position or policy to be putting public infrastructure on private homeowners, many of whom are completely unable to afford it," he said.

City-funded sidewalk replacement is less pie-in-the-sky than I thought at first. Take the Irvine Avenue side-

walk project. It offers an idea of how the city could be responsible for all sidewalks. Some of the parcels are private property, but the city code allows DOMI to build sidewalks on private property when needed. The owner doesn't even have to consent.

To Councilman O'Connor's point, it would take a lot of money and time to create a whole city of safe sidewalks. But delays are nothing new. People started agitating for a new sidewalk on Irvine Avenue at least three years ago.

And where is the money for the Irvine Avenue sidewalk coming from? The Homepage has reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development pitched in \$120,000; another \$1 million came from the \$335 million Pittsburgh received as part of the American Rescue Plan. The work falls under DOMI's Critical Sidewalk Gap program, part of Move Forward Pgh. The city code allows the city to send the owner the bill. But, Mr. Panzitta emailed, even though the city can charge for building a sidewalk on private property, they haven't done it so far.

When we spoke, he said it comes down to focus, preparation, and devoting resources to our collective priorities. Even though it would take a lot of work for the city to take over sidewalks, it is not impossible.

"With a plan and with the right resources and with the right staff," he said. "You can do anything, right?"

Editor's note: Stay tuned to The Homepage to find out when sidewalk repair resources like the Urban Redvelopment Authority Homeowner's Assistance Program is active again. It could be as soon as this summer.



A Hazelwood sidewalk in disrepair. Photo by Juliet Martinez

Foster

- Continued from Front Page

Month, TRAC draws on longstanding connections with churches, community groups and businesses to recruit families willing to help a child move through a difficult stage. Targeted recruiting is essential for youth to remain in their communities and schools, and decrease the trauma from being removed from their family because of abuse, neglect, parent substance abuse or parent/child conflict.

TRAC partners withthe Dave Foundation program, Thomas Wendy's Wonderful Kids; the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network, and the North American Council for Adoptable Children. To learn more about foster parenting and find supportive services, call (412) 471-8722 or visit http://www. tracpgh.org.

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @tracpgh.



When: July 19, 2022

Who: 18 years of age or older

To apply and for more information please visit: https://abcwpa.org/pre-apprentice-application/

SOTA

HECOMMUNITY

Instructor: ABC Certified Apprenticeship Instructor



YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS City council bill regulates single-use plastic bags

From the office of Councilman Corey O'Connor



Photo courtesy of Councilman Corey O'Connor's office

Recently, Pittsburgh City Council passed an ordinance to prohibit retail establishments from providing a single-use plastic bag at the point of sale or through delivery. Council Member Erika Strassburger introduced the legislation and Councilman O'Connor was proud to lend his support as a co-sponsor from the time that it was introduced until the bill was passed. The ordinance will go into effect in April of 2023.

The goal of this legislation is to reduce the number of single-use plastic bags in use. This is accomplished by prohibiting retail establishments from giving out single-use plastic bags or non-recycled paper bags. Certain types of plastic bags are exempt, including those used to package perishable items like fruits, vegetables, meat, bakery goods, as well as those used to package medications from a pharmacy.

In place of a plastic bag, a retail establishment can instead offer a customer a recycled paper bag for a fee of not less than \$0.10 per bag. The money collected from that fee is retained by the retail establishment. Businesses that accept the use of a voucher issued under the Women, Infants, and Children Program, or an electronic benefits transfer card issued by the Department of Human Services, are required to waive the fee for those customers.

On average, Americans use 100 billion plastic bags yearly. PennEnvironment, using statewide data, estimates that Pittsburgh residents use 108 million bags each year. Single-use plastic bags contribute heavily to waste, litter, and pollution. Although we might only use them for a few minutes, they have an incredibly long lifespan: On top of being made through resource-intensive processes, a single-use plastic bag needs almost 500 years to decompose. They don't biodegrade in landfills and eventually contaminate our water and soil. They clog municipal recycling machines, storm drains and waterways, and get stuck on roadsides and in trees. This legislation is a step toward confronting those problems.

The missing WWII memorial, a 70-year-old mystery in Lincoln Place

Martinez

Memorial Day is almost here, and the WWII memorial board is still missing. The Lincoln Place World War II Memorial honor roll was built in 1942 and placed at Mifflin Road and Beggs Street. By 1950, the memorial was moved near the

By Nancy DeGregorio and Juliet Duquesne Light tower. That year, Robbie Capazolla took a photo of a snow-covered landscape with the memorial visible near the tower.

Later, the memorial was moved again. Its location is unknown. If you have information about the memorial, please call Nancy DeGregorio at 412-462-6148.



The Lincoln Place WWII Memorial is visible near the base of the tower. Photo by Robbie Capazolla

Protecting workers from the hazards of secondhand smoke

From the office of State Senator Jay Costa



Photo courtesy of Sen. Costa's office

To strengthen health protections for Pennsylvania workers, State Rep. Dan Frankel and I have introduced the Protecting Workers from Secondhand Smoke Act.

The state's Clean Indoor Air Act allows smoking inside casinos, private clubs and certain drinking establishments. But if passed, our legislation would eliminate exemptions and expand protections for the employees inside those businesses.

The Protecting Workers from Secondhand Smoke Act would:

- ٠ Eliminate loopholes in the Clean Indoor Air Act that leave workers exposed to cancer-causing secondhand smoke.
- Expand the definition of smoking to include e-cigarettes in order to combat the increase in vaping-related illnesses.
- Give all localities the ability to enact smoke-free ordinances that are more protective than state law.

Rep. Frankel noted that pandemic restrictions eliminated smoking in casinos for a year amid a host of other challenges and industry revenues remained strong.

Going to work shouldn't increase someone's risk of cancer or lung disease, but that is exactly what happens to the men and women who work in casinos. Indoor smoking exceptions at these facilities are unsafe for workers and non-smoking patrons.

Clean air is a right; that's why I'm introducing this legislation again with my colleague Rep. Frankel.

Autism Urban Connections Inc. Don't you want to hang out with parents like you that "JUST GET IT!" Time: 11:30am-3:00pm Registration: \$20/person **Tickets on Eventbrite** tinyurl.com/mothersdayretreat22 Participants will enjoy:

> Educational presentations Brunch Wine Glass Crafting •yoga

\$20 per person non-refundable

ELEVATIONZ 4944 Second Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15207



Ms. Alexis Franks, MD

For more information or sponsorship opportunities contact Jamie Upshaw at 412-812-3091 or info@aucofpgh.org



May Chriseline Beaubrun,

M.Ed. BCBA

By Barb Hartman, Hazel Grove Brewing co-owner



Hazel Grover Brewery founders (left to right) Barb Hartman, Larry Adams and Steve Hartman offered a selection of craft brews at the Community Kitchen Pittsburgh Fish Fry on April 15. Photo courtesy of Hazel Grove Brewing

The architectural designs for the interior and courtyard renovations are complete and we are extremely

excited about them. We hope to start construction this summer and serve our first customers by next spring.

HEALTH: Free DOH cancer screening for low and moderate-income patients

By Cassie Miller

A free cancer screening program offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health aims to bring preventative care measures to low- to moderate-income patients across the commonwealth.

Known as The Pennsylvania Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (PA-BCCEDP), the screening program offers free breast and cervical cancer detection services through the Pennsylvania Department of Health and is funded using grant money from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It provides 3D and digital mammograms, ultrasounds, MRIs, Pap tests, HPV tests and follow-up diagnostic tests for abnormal screening results, according to the Department of Health.

The program has provided cancer screenings for more than 96,000 Pennsylvania women and has diagnosed 4,845 cases of breast and cervical cancers since 1994.

"During July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, a total of 6,781 breast and cervical cancer screenings were

provide[d], with 96 breast cancers and 17 cervical cancers detected," Department of Health Spokesperson Maggi Barton said in an email to the Capital-Star, adding that the program also provided for "3,051 diagnostic services for breast cancer and 682 diagnostic services for cervical cancer."

Among all races and ethnicities in Pennsylvania in 2018, lung and bronchus cancers caused the most deaths among women at 3,124, according to CDC data. Breast, (1,963); colon and rectal, (1,223); and pancreatic cancer (1,069) accounted for the top five cancers by number of deaths among women in the state.

Cancer rates and corresponding survival rates, including those of gynecological cancers, vary greatly by race, genetic factors, and socio-economic status, according to recent research from the Kaiser Family Foundation, which concluded that "even though substantial progress has been made in understanding the factors underlying cancer health disparities, marked inequities persist." The space will be a vibrant taproom with bar seating and booths, a lounge, and a hall with communal tables. A rollup door will connect the interior space with the courtyard to create an open indoor-outdoor environment when the weather allows.

We plan on improving the lot as well, repaving the parking lot, rebuilding the sidewalks, adding street trees and landscaping, and repainting the building with a colorful palette that will help to beautify the neighborhood and be visually appealing to our neighbors and guests. We are still in the design phase for these elements.

During the construction phase, we will be brewing in partnership with Cobblehaus Brewing Company in Coraopolis. This enables us to produce and sell to local establishments so people can discover Hazel Grove beer before the taproom is open.

Our beer will be available at the Woods House Historic Pub in Hazelwood, right up the street from our brewery; watch for more announcements in the next few weeks. We will also serve a variety of our craft beers at the Beers of the Burgh festival on June 11.

Our approach to craft beer is to create a broadly approachable portfolio. From low-alcohol light ales and lagers to darker stouts, from interesting Belgian styles to hoppy IPAs, our hope is to have a tap list that will satisfy everyone's taste.

Beer will be available in the taproom and take-out cans, and we will self-distribute our beverages to bars, restaurants, and beer distributors throughout Pittsburgh.

As part of our focus on creating an environment that is welcoming for all, we plan to produce and serve non-alcoholic craft beverages as well. We're developing a number of these so there truly is something for every person who visits.

To provide dining options for our guests, we're excited to be working with Hazelwood's Community Kitchen Pittsburgh to partner on an onsite food truck.



When Black patients are treated by Black doctors, they have better health outcomes – but fewer than 6 in 100 American doctors are Black (The Good Brigade/Digital Vision/Getty Images/The Conversation).

This article is a partial reprint from the Pennsylvania Capital-Star, a member of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

2ND ANNUAL WALK, TALK, AND ROLL THEME: ADA COMPLIANCE AWARENESS May 14th, 2022 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sponsored by Garden of Different Abilities Andrea Coleman M.Ed., Founder

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Page 8 GARDEN AND SUSTAINABILITY Hazelwood forests play a key role in Pittsburgh's future

By Junction Coalition



Trails connect parks and neighborhoods in the greenway system for humans, but the Hazelwood greenway itself connects habitats and wildlife populations in Schenley and Frick parks. Photo by Tiffany Taulton

In 2017, Pittsburgh led the way among U.S. cities by announcing its Climate Action Plan to prepare and protect against effects of climate change. The plan lists urban ecosystems strategies for achieving its goal to "increase carbon sequestration by 100% by 2030." One of these strategies is to "halt the conversion of forest canopy to development."

Forests are our best defense against destruction caused by industrial pollution and global warming, and the importance of Hazelwood in Pittsburgh's plan can't be overstated. Links between forests protect

Links between forests protect more than trees

Besides a high-profile brownfield redevelopment (Hazelwood Green), Hazelwood contains a vital forested corridor that connects two major city parks: Schenley and Frick. The connection supports a variety of wildlife including coyotes, foxes, deer, turkey, hawks, owls; and songbirds such as wood thrush, vireo, tanager and warbler.

"The more a fox from Schenley Park can reach the population of foxes over in, say, Duck Hollow, the healthier our fox population will be," Matt Peters, administrative coordinator for Heartwood, an environmental organization, said during a phone interview. "Forest fragmentation leads to isolated animal populations that are vulnerable to disease and inbreeding."

A compromised or weakened fox population disrupts the ecological balance and can lead to an overabundance of rats and mice. This, in turn, causes an increased chance of diseases jumping from animals to humans, Mr. Peters said.

That's only one example of how connected, protected forests can benefit all living beings in and around them.

"It's not just because we like trees," said Tiffany Taulton, director of outreach and sustainability at Hazelwood Initiative, discussing her work with Hazelwood Greenways Partnership in a phone interview. "This is public health infrastructure."

Urban forests like Hazelwood's help improve air quality, an issue that continues to plague Pittsburgh decades after most of its steel mills closed. They also help reduce flooding, mold problems, and heat-related deaths.

Ms. Taulton shared a sobering quote from Kristina Dahl, a senior climate scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists: "In an average year in the U.S., heat kills more people than any other type of extreme weather."

"People should be able to experience nature and the physical and mental health benefits it provides," said Ms. Taulton. A connected forest offers the opportunity to "get out, get exercise in a way that reduces stress and lets you travel to other neighborhoods without traffic."

Our forests are receiving funds and recognition

In December 2021, Pittsburgh City Council designated over 300 acres of greenway into parks, a game-changer for Hazelwood forests.

"Designating most of the [Hazelwood] greenway as a park gave it access to the funding and resources parks get," said Mr. Peters. This includes funding from the city park tax passed in 2019.

The move supports another Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan strategy: "Allocate adequate resources to sustain the public open space system."

Community volunteers were already hard at work in the greenway. Hazelwood Initiative, Landforce, Pittsburgh's City Planning Department, Tree Pittsburgh, and Allegheny Goatscape coordinated in recent years to clean up an area near Elizabeth Street. In 2021, they built a trail loop, planted trees, worked on drainage issues, and used goats to clear invasive plants. Neighbors removed all types of litter from trails. A dedicated cleanup organized by Boy Scout Troop 3945 picked up shards of glass; others have removed discarded televisions. In November, these efforts led to the Hazelwood Greenways Partnership being a finalist in the United Nations Climate Challenge Cup.

Let's take Hazelwood forests to the next level

As community members who care about our forests, we can hold the City of Pittsburgh accountable for meeting its own management goals for climate preparedness.

Mr. Peters urges a temporary moratorium on development proposals affecting forested lands. A citywide evaluation of Pittsburgh forests would help us identify ways to maintain their ecological integrity.

Such goals need not conflict with economic ones. Ms. Taulton pointed out that the newly designated park in Hazelwood is "an amenity for the entire city, and a nice tourist attraction as well."

You can find this article and others at https://junctioncoalition.org.

FREE Garden Space Available!

Grow food for yourself, your family and friends!

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

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

Sign up on our web page with the easy signup form at https://www.hazelwoodinitiative.org/urban-ag-team



GARDEN AND SUSTAINABILITY Planting for a fall pumpkin harvest

By Matt Peters, Hazelwood Initiative Community Gardens Manager



The crew from Arts Excursions helps prepare the Glen Hazel Community Garden on Johnston Avenue at Roselle Drive for this year's Pumpkin Patch. Photo by Matt Peters

This year, Hazelwood Initiative is teaming up with Arts Excursions to grow pumpkins for a neighborhood Pumpkin Carving Party in October. If all goes well, we will have free pumpkins for folks to carve!

The pumpkins are part of the Three Sisters model of food production developed by indigenous farmers in the mountains of what we know today as Mexico, one of several places around the world where agriculture developed independently at the end of the Ice Age. This method grows three crops together in the same space: corn, beans and squash. These three plants not only provide a complete nutritional profile in abundance that can be stored for the winter months, they are an ecologically balanced trio that does not exhaust soil fertility the way western industrial agriculture does.

Modern methods of growing the highly hybridized, even genetically modified crop we call corn rely on thousands of acres of monoculture, an ecological desert that covers the landscape on the scale that you see from our nation's interstate system. This industrial strategy might rotate that crop year to year with soybeans, and perhaps other crops like wheat or rye. But each planting requires extensive tilling, weeding, and external sources of fertilizer made from petrochemical industry by-products. This industry continues to factor in some of the worst wars of human history.

Perhaps our organically grown pumpkins will make for a jack-olantern that will keep such monsters at bay, perhaps not. Maybe knowing that we will also be growing Calico Popcorn and a mix of various types of pole beans with the pumpkins will increase the anticipation of our October festival day.

The Glen Hazel Garden is there

for Glen Hazel residents to use, and we hope that our activity this year breaks the ice and generates more grassroots involvement. Contact us if you would like growing space for yourself or want to help with this group project! We also have other spaces available for growing food, and even opportunities for someone looking for a career in the agricultural arts. Get in touch, get dirty, and get involved!

Contact Matt at gardens@ hazelwoodinitiative.org or call the Hazelwood Initiative office at 412-421-7234 for more information.

12-421-7234 for more information.



The crew from Arts Excursions helps prepare the Glen Hazel Community Garden on Johnston Avenue at Roselle Drive for this year's Pumpkin Patch. Photo by Matt Peters

Start acting like our home is on fire

By Jim McCue

"The planet is on fire." - Bill Nye, The Science Guy

If you've lived in Pittsburgh long enough to remember making snow angels and snow men and igloos and tunnels, then you know about global warming. Sixty-nine years old now, I remember cars with spikes and chains on their tires to enable traction on ice and snow. The snow used to start in the fall and stay on the ground till spring.

The temperatures in formerly cold places on Earth have gotten to nearly unbelievable highs. Whole areas are now uninhabitable. The melting of ice is causing the seas to rise. At a County Council meeting in 2003, I asked people to look up "abrupt climate change."

It's clear we're going into a dramatically changed age. And it's coming at a speed almost no one expected. Nobel prize-winning scientist Svante Arrhenius predicted global warning more than a hundred years ago.

Yet I remember those "experts" who were not long ago stating that if global warming happens at all, it won't be for a thousand or two years.

Don't be surprised at the frustration those of us who are more awake to what's going on so often feel. Climate change is happening NOW, not sometime in the future. Young Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, a distant relative of Arrhenius, said, "I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."

I'm realistic, but not pessimistic. The mushrooming negative changes have made many certain that the human race is headed for extinction soon. But these bad changes are equally paralleled with good changes, from the internet-aided consciousness that we're all one, to the new inventions to take advantage of the opportunities provided by these catastrophes, to the growing awareness that we are a part of Gaia, Mother Earth, Mother Nature.

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FAMILIAR FACES



(Left) Squonk Opera performed its "Hand to Hand" show with gigantic puppet hands before an enthusiastic crowd as the finale of the Hazelwood Earth Day celebration on April 23. Photo by Ray Gerard





(Above) Phipps Conservancy gave away red kale, Siberian kale, collards, and parsley for residents' home gardens. Photo by Ray Gerard

(Above, left to right) Arnold Stagger and Larry Estes jammed on guitar and bass for the crowd in the early afternoon. Photo by Ray Gerard



(Above) Lincoln Place residents, joined by Councilman Corey O'Connor, Zane the Calming Dog and his friend McGruff, gathered at McBride Park for the 31st Ward Spring Cleanup on April 23. Photo by Juliet Martinez

FAMILIAR FACES



(Above) Community members learned about training and job opportunities at the Trades Awareness Career Fair on March 23 at Propel Hazelwood. Photo by Tiffany Taulton



(Above) Daniel Orkwis, a certified tree tender and member of the Re-Leaf Hazelwood steering committee, joined at least 20 volunteers to plant 80 trees in the greenway on April 9. "I'm involved in the Re-Leaf program because I think Hazelwood should be as green as possible, " he said.

Photo by Jamie Gruzinski

(Above) Tree Pittsburgh volunteers admiring their work, a hillside of newly planted trees in the Hazelwood greenway, on April 9. Photo by Tiffany Taulton



sculptural piece on Hazelwood Green. Hundreds of metal and glass hand tracings from people in the neighborhood will make up the house's walls and roof.

Page 12 SCHOOL UPDATES **Open house was an enormous success!**

By TRVS Staff

The weather was perfect for Three Rivers Village School and Arts Excursions Unlimited's open house celebration in April.

Residents of Hazelwood with fond memories of the YMCA on Chatsworth had a chance to see inside again. Everyone admired the renovation work by Hazelwood Initiative. Kids played inside and outside. The art space that TRVS and AEU will share was busy with both kids and adults. People silkscreened t-shirts and customized buttons to pin on their clothing.

Families from the neighborhood and all over Allegheny County interested in enrollment at TRVS toured the building and talked with staff and parents of current students about the Sudbury school model. AEU cooked hot dogs on the grill. And what's a party without cake?

Spirits were high and the atmosphere was festive. We are so grateful for all who came to the event and made it the celebration we were hoping to have. Watch this space for news about more up-

coming events for our neighbors! TRVS is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the school year. If you weren't able to make it to the open house, contact us to schedule a tour. We'd love to see you, whether you're a family interested in play-based learning and raising children as free people with real responsibilities, or someone who knew the building back in the day and wants to see it full of life again.



Community fun at the TRVS and Arts Excursions Unlimited open house on April 2. Photo by Lauren McNulty



Community fun at the TRVS and Arts Excursions Unlimited open house on April 2. Photo by Lauren McNulty

Schools in our circulation area are invited to share their news with the community through The Homepage every month. If you would like to update the community about a school, email jmartinez@hazelwoodinitiative.org.



GARDEN FOR FUN, FOOD, &

COMMUNITY They say that "growing food is like growing money," and with the way prices at the store are going up, now is a good time to start cardening!



JOIN THE HAZELWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN!

Membership is FREE, with a \$10 refundable deposit to secure your bed for the season. Garden beds are located behind Three Rivers Village School, at the intersection of Monongahela St. and Minden St.

Contact our Garden Manager, Matt Peters, to sign up: gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org

Contact Us For More Information : 0: 412-421-7234 C: 412-392-7427 ttaulton@hazelwoodinitiative.org https://hazelwoodinitiative.org



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SCHOOL UPDATES Propel Hazelwood game night a hit

By Propel Hazelwood Academy

Families enjoyed a fun evening filled with math, science and games during Propel Hazelwood's Family Game Night.

Math educators and Propel partners gathered in the gymnasium of the K-8 charter school for activity stations and family play time. The evening included a dinner of sandwiches, chips, brownies, and drinks.

Families built their own board games with educator Michelle Bartha, played math Jenga with Lindsey Smith, and competed to win addition bingo with Katherine Latkowski. Julia McAfee provided health-related education by sharing the amounts of sugar contained in some beverages. Families participated in free health screenings and competed in an estimation station activity with partners from Duquesne University.

After completing activities, families were invited to build together using LEGO and K'Nex building sets, and regular cups.

Prizes included fidget toys to help scholars focus during their studies.

Seventh-grade scholar Jaidin Knight said she, "had fun at the game night because I got to see most of my old teachers that I don't get to see often, and I got to do fun activities with them."

This event was the second in a three-part series at Propel Hazelwood focused on science, math and reading. Details about the next event will be posted on the school's webpage. These events are open to everyone in the Hazelwood community, even if you do not have a scholar who attends Propel Hazelwood. We hope to see you there!



Photo courtesy of Propel Hazelwood



Photo courtesy of Propel Hazelwood

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LOCAL CHARACTER How do I handle conflicting emotions about my mom?



Photo courtesy of Erika Johnson

By Erika "E" Johnson

Dear E,

I have a difficult relationship with my mother that makes Mother's Day a challenge, to say the least. How do I handle my conflicting feelings around this time of year?

Signed, Conflicted

Dear Conflicted,

Anytime there is a difficult situation, especially one that involves emotions, healing and boundaries, you must be kind to yourself. Give yourself grace. During Mother's Day, be gentle with yourself and try not to allow your emotions to beat you up. Your emotions are here for a reason, and you are meant to feel them because you need to realize something, process it and release what's inside.

Don't ignore them. Look for ways to understand, process and release your conflicting feelings.

Once you process the feelings you're carrying, you can figure out what emotions you want to release. There are no rules for this but, as a guide, I advise you to do what brings you the most peaceful relief. A release can look like writing a letter and burning it, or giving it to your mother. Journaling, having a good cry, talking to a therapist, and working out can also help.

Ask yourself what you can do for your mother while respecting your boundaries and maintaining peace. Find a small way to show her appreciation, like giving her a card, sending a text or flowers, or sharing an old picture with a thank you.

Erika Johnson is a Pittsburgh native, a singer-songwriter, writer and founder of Beata Beatus Co. Find out more at www.erikadenaej.com.



Straight Outta Hazelwood: Aaron Tyrone Lamont Dennis

By Andrea Coleman



Aaron Tyrone Lamont Dennis, 12/26/1975 - 05/30/2017. Photo courtesy of Andrea Coleman

I lost my first-born son, Aaron Tyrone Lamont Dennis, five years ago this May 30, 2022.

I am not the only mother in this community who has suffered this. I have watched the balloon releases, Happy Heavenly Birthday shoutouts on social media, and the in-person Heavenly Birthday parties.

I see these as attempts to remember, to share, and continue to release the emotions that can accompany the loss of a significant loved one.

So, in my way of coping with the loss of my son Aaron, I offer his story, "Straight Outta Hazelwood" to honor him.

Aaron was born the day after Christmas, a rough tough ordeal, and kept in ICU for three days. The third day of his life he was returned to me and my care. Aaron remained slightly underweight, but this never affected his strength and energy.

He was rough and tough like his birth. He was known to the family as Scooter. He loved chocolate and peanut butter of any kind. He loved to talk, and had phenomenal vocabulary, penmanship and writing.

One of his favorite childhood games, "Float or Sink" started with bathtub fun and led to his fascination with science and math as an adult.

Aaron attended Burgwin Elementary School and Gladstone Middle School. With the disparities in Hazelwood and the city of Pittsburgh, with the economic decline, violence, drug abuse and gangs, he was caught up in truancy violations and sent to Abraxas High School, where he completed his education.

Aaron was diagnosed with depression, and with my permission, entered a research program through the University of Pittsburgh Western Psychiatric Institute. When he turned 18 years old, I was no longer included in his treatment.

I ask myself, was this his initial entrance to the school-to-prison pipeline? Yes, Aaron spent his early adult years in prison.

He thrived in jail and helped many other inmates. He was an articulate businessman and pen pal in the best sense of the word.

He read avidly, and wrote his adored grandmother monthly, and attended family gatherings via his allotted phone calls from prison.

In 2015, Aaron was released on probation, and truthfully admitted, "Mom as strong as I may be or seem, my chances of making it here on the outside of prison is slim. But for my challenge on cleaning up my record, and getting my business in order, and of course you and my family...I will meet the challenge."

At what seemed to be the best time of his life, he departed this world on Memorial Day weekend, 2017.

I created a Facebook page, "Living With Loss," in 2019, sharing my grief with others. Here in my writing for and about Aaron, "Straight Outta Hazelwood" the good the bad, and the not so good...it all mattered in his LIFE. Yes, life is short, so truth be told, even when it hurts.

Straight Outta Hazelwood is a series of profiles written by Andrea Coleman, a lifelong Hazelwood resident and founder of the Garden of Different Abilities.

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COMMUNITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS **Developer invites feedback on affordable housing concepts for Hazelwood Green Hazelwood Initiative April 12 community meeting highlights** By Juliet Martinez The group's analyses of man data "triple bottom line" of a coopera- more control over working cond

Hazelwood Green developer, Tishman Speyer, gave residents a first look at an affordable housing complex across from Hazelwood Green Plaza. It will consist of two buildings forming an L shape at the intersection of Lytle and Eliza streets.

Architect Brent Houck said the Lytle building will have 60 units. The first floor will house amenities like a fitness center, community room, playroom and management offices. Small retail spaces are possible.

On Eliza, the 45-unit building will be all residential. The ground floor will have apartments facing the street. The top floor will be set back to maintain a sense of openness on the street.

Mr. Houck said they currently expect to have 58 one-, 37 two-, and 10 three-bedroom rental apartments. The buildings will meet Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility standards. While some will be built for disabled tenants, disabled people will be able to visit any of the units. Both buildings will have elevators and the units will have full bathrooms with bathtubs.

Austin Gelbard, Tishman Speyer senior director, said these designs are in their earliest stages.

Gary Rodney is managing director of affordable housing at Tishman Speyer. He said Tishman Speyer prioritizes working with minorityand women-owned businesses. He promised that Tishman Speyer will ask for more input on the designs.

"We are definitely open and willing to meet with as many groups as we can because we realize we're coming into your community," Mr. Rodney said.

Chatham University greenway hillside stabilization study

Three graduate students in sustainability reported on their research at the meeting. They conducted studies of landslide risk and hillside stability in the Hazelwood greenway.

They found that storms will be more frequent and intense across the Northeast. This will worsen the threats of landslides and stormwater problems.

They said heavier rains destabilize the soil, which already shows signs of degradation. The group's analyses of map data showed that steep hillsides in the greenway make erosion likely.

They recommended stabilizing hillsides by pairing non-invasive plants with retaining walls, for example. In areas with shallow slopes, landscape fabrics can stabilize soils while allowing water to soak into the ground. On steep slopes, livepole drains using branches offer a way to intercept high speed runoff and keep the soil stable.

They suggested moving trails to more stable areas when current trail locations are unsafe. Honeycomb grids can help reduce puddling and improve the load-bearing capacity of trails.

The City of Pittsburgh chief resilience officer, Rebecca Kiernan, collaborated on the studies. The data and recommendations may affect city policy in the future.

Second Avenue grocery store update: Cooperative business model

The group working to build a grocery store on the 4800 block of Second Avenue welcomed volunteers with the Pennsylvania Center for Employee Ownership. POORLAW/ GH-CARED is spearheading the construction of the Sarah Dixon Innovation Center.

Kevin McPhillips, the organization's executive director, said employee ownership is about programs that change the lives of workers. He described a multi-tiered co-op facility.

Tier 1: Real estate co-op

If area residents pool money to pay for the building, they would each be part owners.

Tier 2: Consumer co-op grocery

Co-op members would pay a fee to shop at the store. At the end of the year, they receive to a part of the profits or a discount on future purchases. These benefits are proportional to the amount of money each member spends at the store.

Tier 3: Employee-owned co-op

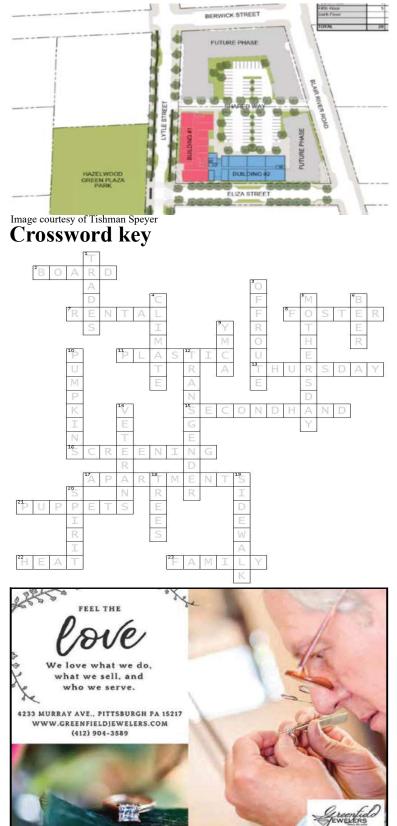
The grocery employees would own the business. They would have a say in important decisions affecting the company. Worker co-ops are democracies. They can have a oneperson-one-vote governance structure, or an elected board of directors.

Ron Gaydos, a cooperative business consultant, spoke about the "triple bottom line" of a cooperative. By this standard, the actions of the cooperative must make financial sense, benefit the workers and benefit the community.

He said on average, workers in cooperative businesses make 12-15% more than other workers. They have more control over working conditions. Cooperative businesses have about a third the failure rate of conventional ones.

For more information, contact Kevin McPhillips at kevin@paceo. org or visit

https://ownershippennsylvania.org/.



COMMUNITY VOICES Offroute Art helps local artists ages 16-24 to sell their art

By Kjerstin Pugh, founder and is to absorb all costs associated with executive director of Offroute Art

I started the nonprofit Offroute Art after working at a public arts high school in Connecticut. Its mission is to display and sell works from artists ages 16 to 24. Artists receive 100% of the price they set when their piece sells. Part of our mission

selling.

Offroute is seeking artists between the ages of 16 and 24 in Hazelwood, Glen Hazel, Greenfield, and surrounding areas. To connect, email offrouteart@gmail.com, DM @offrouteart, or submit art through offrouteart.com.



Bling Dream & Koi by Offroute artist Julie Francois (@juliefransauce)

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

Six word stories

Each month, Homepage readers send in their own six-word stories and poems. Some imaginative readers also submit ideas for the following month's prompts. Please submit your six-word poems and stories to editor@hazelwoodinitiative. org by May 13.

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

Springtime delights

Daffodils, creeping phlox Line garden walks Janice O'Toole

Fresh green peas Cherry blossom trees MaryAnn Majcher

Mother's love

Love each day to shared DNA Janice O'Toole

Unconditional Everything fixable Always there unequivocal MaryAnn Majcher

Wedding planning

Set the date, love your mate Janice O'Toole

White lace dress Ribbons for tress MaryAnn Majcher

Prompts for next month:

- Juneteenth
- LGBTQ Pride
- Nature walks

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COMMUNITY VOICES Here's what Pa. lawmakers could do if they really wanted to protect women and girls | Opinion

A transgender sports ban only hurts women — and helps no one except lawmakers seeking re-election

By Colleen Kennedy

Last week, Pennsylvanians received deeply troubling news: The Republican-controlled state House approved a bill to ban transgender women from competing on women's school sports teams.

This legislation, copied and pasted from extreme interests from across the country, has no chance of passage, as Gov. Tom Wolf will veto it. The damage is done, however. This is another chapter written in the culture wars driven by the Legislature's Republican majority, victimizing children to help write their tv ads for this November's general election.

As an openly nonbinary and queer person, I could talk about the perversion that comes from a group of mostly men drafting legislation about the genitalia of kids and young people, pretending that is the same as someone's gender identity.

I could talk about the money behind this effort, and the political windfall that comes from disingenuously painting progressive lawmakers as "out of touch" for daring to think about the interests of the most vulnerable among us. I could even talk about how troubling it is that such legislation, which these lawmakers know will never be signed into law, is being prioritized over so many other actual needs and crises facing the Commonwealth.

But I won't, because none of these arguments break the shield from logic that their political agenda provides to them. What I will share is the antidote to their leading political narrative, that this is an effort to protect women and girls.

Protecting women and girls would mean protecting domestic violence survivors from being murdered with a gun, through the passage of extreme risk protection order legislation. Protecting women and girls would mean fully funding public schools and colleges, instead of stockpiling billions in federal pandemic aid that could be invested in classrooms and on the soccer field. Protecting women and girls would mean passing paid family leave, advancing universal childcare and Pre-K, and passing measures to reduce the sky-high mortality rate for expectant mothers, especially Black and brown mothers.

Protecting women and girls would mean lowering the cost of healthcare and protecting all healthcare, including reproductive healthcare and gender affirming care.

Protecting women and girls would mean paying Pennsylvanians a living wage. Paying women enough to survive and thrive is the easiest and best way to lift women and their entire families out of poverty and boost our economy for all.

Finally, protecting women and girls would mean passing #MeToo legislation, a bill written by a woman legislator of the House of Representatives. This bill would work to end the crisis of sexual harassment, sexual assault, violent rape, retaliation, and taxpayer funded settlements to cover up this trail of violence throughout the state Capitol.

These legislators dare to say they are protecting women, and they cannot be moved to ban their colleagues from raping their colleagues? Four years have passed. What are they waiting for to get to work?

These legislators have failed repeatedly to protect women and girls, and in fact, it has been their entire legacy. This latest bill is another brick in a wall of policies meant to preserve one thing only: white, rich, male power, however they choose to abuse it.

Transgender girls are girls. Get off the field and let them play.

Colleen Kennedy is a non-binary queer Pennsylvanian who writes from Upper Darby, Pa.

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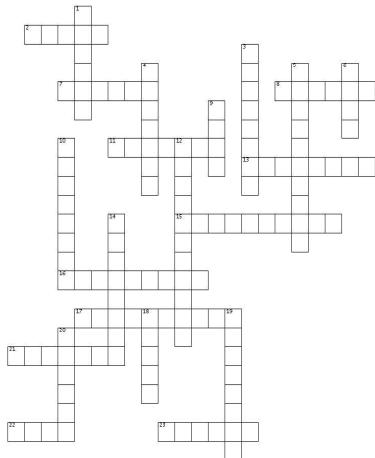
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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION Crossword puzzle



DOWN

1. The job fair at Propel Hazelwood focused on this kind of career

3. Artists from 16-24 years old can get help to sell their art through this organization

4. This kind of change is also known as global warming5. Ask E has good advice for those

struggling with this holiday 6. Hazel Grove Brewery will have all kinds of this, including non-alcoholic

9. Old and young had fun visiting the former this, now the home of Three Rivers Village School 10. Arts Excursions Unlimited helped plant these in Glen Hazel last month

12. The T in LGBTQ

14. The missing Lincoln Place honor roll listed the names of these from WWII

18. Neighborhood residents and volunteers planted 80 of these in the greenway

19. Property owners must maintain the part of this public right of way on their property

20. The art project people traced their hands for is called _____ house

ACROSS

2. Families built their own games of this kind at Propel Hazelwood7. HARPP keeps this kind of housing unit affordable8. May is National Care

Month

11. City Council passed an ordinance that will limit these kinds of bags

13. Autism Urban Connections meetings are online every month on the second _____

15. Sen. Costa supports protecting casino employees from this kind of smoke

16. This kind of routine test tells you if you might have a certain disease or condition

17. Tishman Speyer talked about building this kind of housing on Hazelwood Green

21. Squonk Opera performed with these in the shape of giant hands22. Trees in the neighborhood and the greenway help reduce this cause of weather-related death

23. Parents of young children can find resources and support at the

Center in the basement of the Carnegie library Hazelwood.

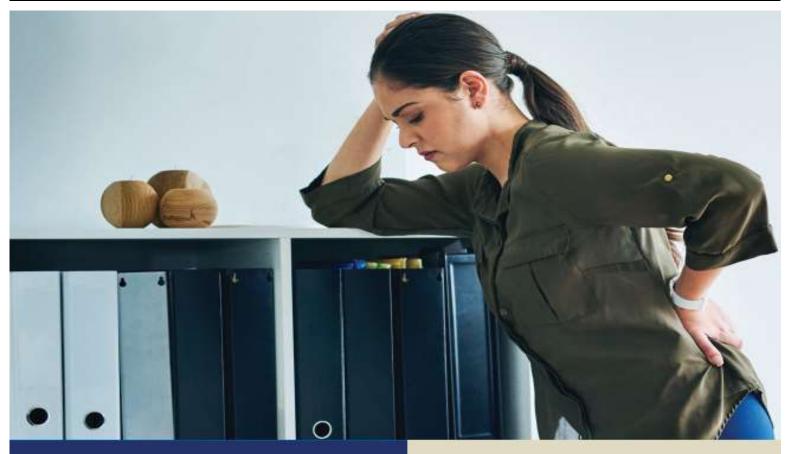
See CROSSWORD KEY on Page 16

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The Diamond Room	(412) 235-7033
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Got Back Pain?

Are you:

- age 18 or older?
- currently experiencing low back pain?

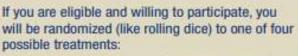
You may be eligible for a University of Pittsburgh federally funded research study exploring different therapies to treat **low** back pain and prevent it in the future.

There is no cost to you to participate in this year-long study.

This study may not be for you if you have ongoing, bothersome back pain that has lasted more than three months.

To learn if you may qualify for a screening appointment, visit **pacback.org**.

Compensation will be provided.



- Spinal Manipulation involves hands-on therapy to the joints and muscles in the low back.
- Supported Selfmanagement focuses on teaching you things you can do on your own to manage your back pain.
- Combined Spinal Manipulation and Supported Selfmanagement involves a combination of hands-on therapy and self-management.
- Medical Care involves treatment such as medication that you would typically get from your medical provider.











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