

The Homepage

Serving the communities of

Greater Hazelwood • Greenfield • 31st Ward • New Homestead • The Run



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Floriated Interpretation Grows Beautiful Plants and Futures

By Tiffany Taulton

Once upon a time, people were born into a particular family or economic class and they were never permitted to “rise above their station.” They learned to do the job that their family did and that was the job they did their whole lives. But that is not the world we live in today. Nowadays, people change jobs frequently, and it is those with the most transferable skills—and those that know how to market themselves—that are able to thrive and become much more than the circumstances of their birth would have ever allowed a hundred years ago.

It is this adaptability that allowed Elaine Price, a long-time operations manager with a business degree from Duquesne University, to switch careers and follow her passion by enrolling in a horticulture program



Outside Floriated Interpretation

at the Bidwell Training Center in 2012. Within just three years, she had not only learned how to run a plant nursery but also learned to navigate the city zoning code to turn the lot behind her house into a business, taught neighborhood youth the ins and outs of running it, and at-

tracted the attention of major foundations. By April of 2015, she had opened a 10,000 square foot plant nursery that she named Floriated Interpretation. Ms. Price remembers the day clearly because it snowed: “It was so cold, but we opened just the same!”

Every year of the new business brought its challenges but there were also many victories. Her plant care business grew from a backyard nursery that served a few loyal small businesses, to building a partnership with Hazelwood Green and gaining customers for her small events’ floral arrangements. However, she’s most proud of the way she’s been able to serve her community. Regardless of snow, mini recessions, or pandemics, she always hires a few young people from the neighborhood to work in her nursery.

Many of her former employees have grown into productive members of the community that are gainfully employed, and now taking care of their own families. Some

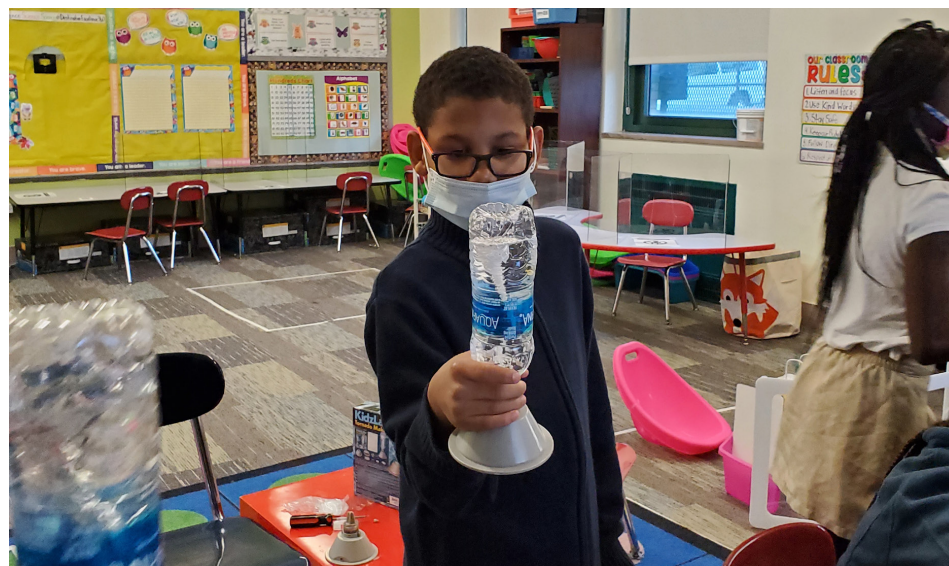
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Propel Afterschool Brings MAGIC to Hazelwood

By Rachel Sonnet

At Propel Hazelwood, learning and laughter fill the halls—and not just during the regular day, but also after school. Propel Afterschool MAGIC has operated both afterschool and summer programming at Propel Hazelwood since 2014. The program is free to all Hazelwood scholars and open 36 weeks for afterschool with hours immediately at the end of the regular day, 3:45 to 6:45 and 4-6 weeks for summer.

Afternoon begins with tutoring or time to finish and get help with homework, always a welcome addition for parents and teachers. Enrichment hour is filled with different activities. Providers have included: The Urban League of Pittsburgh, Stem Stars with the YWCA, social emotional learning with Adagio Health, Reading is Fundamental and Virtual Dance with Bianca Brandon. Dinner, provided through our partner Community Kitchen Pittsburgh, is a special time at Propel Hazelwood



Students making tornadoes with the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh

with poetry readings by scholars, etiquette reminders, table talk and nutritious food. Parent pick-ups are monitored.

One of the most important facets of MAGIC programming is the arts. Each day, art is offered by a local renowned artist. Currently, Sheila Ali, Director of the Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, is teaching students how to make miniature houses, complete with tiny furniture all from

recycled materials. She has special supplies that are available for all families to pick up at the school. Basic art supplies and science materials have also been available for families to pick up.

This year has seen adaptations, new ideas, technology-driven meetings and creative scheduling as Propel Afterschool continued programming, both hybrid and virtual, through the regular year, the sum-

mer and into the 2020-2021 school year. Partners and artists have done an amazing job of adapting lessons and projects. Hurricanes in a bottle, miniature art, windmills, ecosystems and many other exciting projects have taken place under new safety protocols or online.

Special programming has been offered at Propel Hazelwood, including a reading initiative with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation called the Gran Intergenerational Reading Program. Once a month, senior volunteers read with scholars and worked on themed activities. It was a great success. Reading is Fundamental visits our students virtually or in-person, and the Stem Stars’ science programming and the Urban League of Pittsburgh have made STEAM learning entertaining. Art, creative movement, stem and more were offered this past summer—virtually—3 hours a day for 5 weeks.

Continued on Page Five



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Hazelwood Initiative, Inc.
4901 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
(412) 421-7234
editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org

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:
editor@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.

A Message from Hazelwood Initiative

By Tiffany Taulton, Director of Community Initiatives

There is a lot going on in our community these days and we want to make sure you are aware of it! Please follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/hazelwoodinitiative, and sign up on our website: hazelwoodinitiative.org, for our weekly newsletter so you don't miss any important information.

1. **The Hazelwood Initiative NIF C-19 Covid Relief grant is now closed.** Over 90 applications were received, and over \$60,000 was given to help Hazelwood and Glen Hazel residents buy necessities such as food and medicine via gift cards. This also enabled residents to remain in their homes as we paid rents, mortgages, property taxes and utilities. While most of the grant money was taken from the rent that we receive from our tenant, Propel Hazelwood, we would not have been able to help as many residents as we did without the additional support from those of you that gave donations to help your neighbors in need. THANK YOU!
2. **The County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is now open.** This program is very different from the program that was rolled out last year! It will require less documentation, it will pay landlords IN FULL, and will provide each applicant with an online portal to track the status of their application and upload additional documents as needed. You will see what documents are still needed from you on your online dashboard, and get quick follow-ups from neighborhood organizations you know, like us. Payments on completed applications will be sent within TWO WEEKS—not six months! Additionally, proof of a hardship related to Covid can also include an increase in household expenses, such as increased utility bills from staying home all the time, not simply the loss of a job or reduction of hours. **The application is only available online at: covidrentrelief.allegHENYcounty.us.** However, if you are unable to complete the online application, you can get help at one of their drop-in centers, or request a phone intake. Be advised that there is a waiting time for a phone appointment, and it can take up to two hours to complete an intake by phone. Hazelwood Initiative is contracted with Action Housing to provide follow-up assistance and case management to residents of Hazelwood and Glen Hazel who complete the initial intake but need additional help to get their supporting documents into the system. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions about this new grant!

3. **Send your Mother's Day and Graduation tributes to the Homepage!** This is a community paper, so let's see you in it! Email up to two pictures of your mom or graduate with a short message—50 words or less—to editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org by April 15th for them to appear in our May edition.

How to Submit to The Homepage

The Homepage is a community newspaper and we'd like to hear more from you! We are looking for written articles and pictures for the following categories:

- Neighborhood News
- Opinions
- Local History
- Community Events
- Health & Wellness
- Environment
- Youth
- Education
- Obituaries

Articles should be 250-500 words. A select few feature articles may be allowed to go as high as 850 words, according to the editor's discretion.

Format: Times New Roman font, size 11.5, saved as a Word document.

Please make sure to include a title, sources for any research, and a byline (the name and title, or organization of the author of the article).

Pictures should be clear, well-lit, high-resolution (500kb or larger) and in jpg or png format. They should also have a caption that includes the name of the photographer and a brief description of who is in the photo and what they are doing.

Deadline: Submit all content by the 15th of each month.

COVID-19: Greater Hazelwood Food Distribution

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

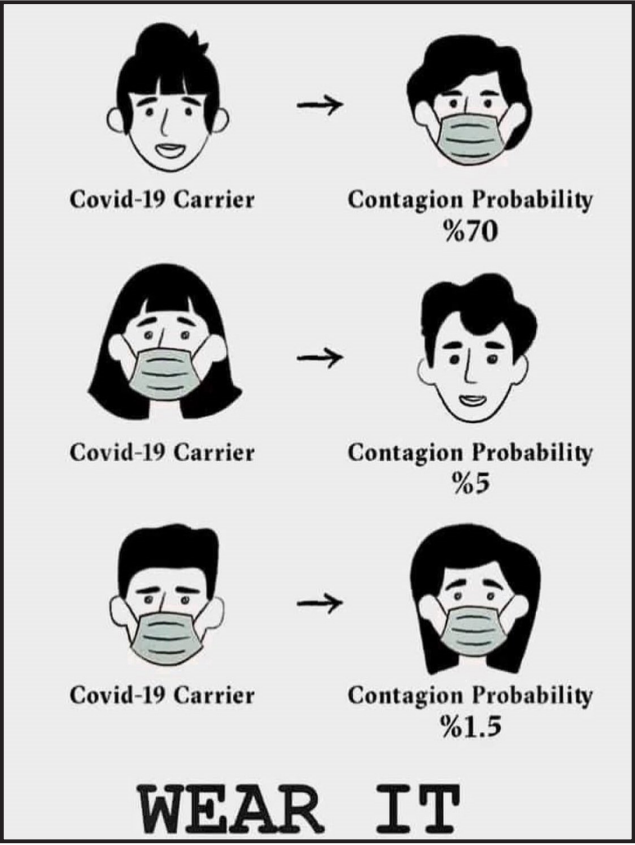
Hotlines, Alerts, & General Information

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

- Church of the Good Shepherd**
124 Johnston Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-8497
hazelwoodgoodshepherd@gmail.com
www.hazelwoodgoodshepherd.org
- First Hungarian Reformed Church of Pittsburgh**
221 Johnston Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-0279
- Holy Angels Parish**
408 Baldwin Road
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-461-6906
www.holyangelshays.org
- Keystone Church of Hazelwood**
161 Hazelwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-521-3468
- Morningstar Baptist Church**
5524 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-6269
- Praise Temple Deliverance Church**
5400 Glenwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-277-0113

Houses of Worship

- 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
- Squirrel Hill Christian Church**
290 Bigelow Street
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-521-2447
www.squirrelhillcc.wixsite.com
- Steel City Church**
290 Bigelow Street
Pittsburgh, 15207
803-422-5855
info@thesteelcitychurch.com
www.thesteelcitychurch.com
- St. John the Evangelist Baptist**
4537 Chatsworth Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-521-0994
info@stjohnpgh.org
www.stjohnpgh.org



**“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.

- Fountain of Life Church**
247 Johnston Ave
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-422-8794
www.fountainoflifepgh.com
- Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Chapel**
5319 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-521-0844
www.holycrosspgh.info
- St. Rosalia’s Catholic Church**
411 Greenfield Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-5766
strosaliaparish@gmail.com
www.strosaliaparish.org
- St. Stephen Catholic Church**
5115 Second Avenue
Pittsburgh, 15207
412-421-9210
saintstephen@verizon.net
www.ststephen-hazelwood.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

Op-Ed: Pro-Life is Pro-Vaccine

By Rep. Ryan Bizzarro

Being pro-life means getting a vaccine as soon as you can and not worrying about the brand.

This week we saw one of the most careless, irresponsible and anti-science statements made since the COVID-19 crisis began over a year ago—a statement that will certainly lead to more infections, more hospitalizations and more Americans dead.

No, I'm not talking about Texas Governor Greg Abbott telling people to stop wearing masks even as cases in his state spike and as every single coronavirus variant known to medical science rages in Houston.

I'm talking about the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh joining with the Catholic Conference of Bishops to tell Catholics to avoid the Johnson & Johnson single-shot COVID-19 vaccine. A literal medical miracle crafted by hands guided with divine providence that is 85 percent effective against preventing severe illness in cases of COVID-19 infection, and 100 percent effective in preventing death in cases of COVID-19 infection.

I am a life-long Catholic. I am also

a childhood cancer survivor; a product of science and medical miracles. Many doctors wrote me off and told my parents they could do nothing more than keep me comfortable until I died. By the grace of God, clinical trials, modern medicine, and nothing short of a miracle—I am able to serve this commonwealth today. As a life-long Catholic, I cannot fathom how anyone can call themselves truly “pro-life” and tell a worried senior citizen or a middle-aged teacher in a Catholic school to say “no” to a vaccine that will literally defend their gift of life and grant them the years allotted them by their maker.

This has been a hard year. More than a half-million American lives lost. Millions of families changed forever. There is not a single person reading this who doesn't at least know someone who contracted the virus. Hopefully they were lucky enough to defeat the infection, but now live with the fear of reinfection, or of someday learning the virus did permanent damage yet unknown. Perhaps they were not lucky, and their passing is a hole left in so many lives.

While President Trump started Warp Speed, President Biden has truly led the fight and we're seeing the might of American industry and innova-

tion finally brought to bear on this microscopic enemy and the news every day gets better of more and more vaccines on the way to our health care providers and into the arms of the people, we are not out of the woods yet. Even as the deadline to make and deliver hundreds of millions of doses is moved up and up, we have work to do. There is light at the end of the tunnel, but we dare not veer from the path.

We need to get as many people vaccinated as fast as we can to stay ahead of the variants and to get us to the 80 percent of the population protected to truly deliver us herd immunity. That means getting the first shot available to you, and don't worry if it's Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson. All three used stem cells during the testing process, by the way.

In 2015, Catholic Bishops in Kenya demanded a boycott of the polio vaccine because of concerns the vaccine contained estrogen. As a result, more than four times as many Catholic children in Africa missed their polio shots compared to non-Catholic children. Parental refusal among Catholics doubled. For the polio vaccine. Created in Pittsburgh. Another medical miracle crafted with divine providence that

saved the world.

Get your vaccine. If you're concerned about the Bishop of the Pittsburgh Diocese being angry, listen to the St. Louis diocese who said Catholics can get that vaccine “in good conscience if no other alternative is available.” If you're still worried, don't be. The Vatican disagrees and is even mandating all Vatican employees must get a vaccine or risk being fired. Pope Francis is correctly more worried about getting as much vaccine to people in need as fast as possible than anything else.

The life you save just might be your own.

MEDIA CONTACT:
Nicole Brunner
House Democratic
Policy Committee
Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, Chairman
717-645-7316

Editor's note: This op-ed was originally published on March 4, 2021 in response to the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh discouraging Catholics from getting the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Hazelwood Organizations Register Over 100 People for COVID Vaccine

By Gerri Tipton

When Covid vaccines Pfizer and Moderna were introduced last year, people had mixed feelings. Some were excited about receiving the vaccine, especially those who had pre-existing conditions, while some remained hesitant. There was also the worry that there might not be enough vaccine doses to go around, especially for those in lower income communities. But worry turned into relief when Hazelwood Initiative received a call from UPMC about helping community members get registered for the Covid vaccine.

“This was a one-time special outreach to the residents of Hazelwood, Homewood and the Hill District,” said Tiffany Taulton, director of community initiatives for the Hazelwood Initiative. It is well-known that communities of color have a

disparity in access to these resources due to a digital divide, and are therefore more at risk of Covid. With many low-income community and family members serving as essential workers, UPMC and the Initiative wanted to make sure they had access to getting registered first.

“It was really an effort to get people vaccinated who would not be able to. Everyone we called said yes and were very grateful. We registered over 100 people,” said Taulton. Getting people registered was a change of pace and very different from the day-to-day work Taulton is used to, but it worked out in the community's favor. “It was a stressful process switching gears and putting all our regular work down to do this, but it was so important for the community that we couldn't not do it.”

Other organizations like the Center of Life and Fishes and Loaves also

helped with getting folks registered. It was a bit chaotic to get everyone registered at first, but everything fell into place over the three-day time span. “We had an easier time getting people registered than I thought, and there was a lot of enthusiasm for folks to get their vaccinations,” said Danielle Chaykowsky, executive assistant and Center of Life. Dylan Knapp-Scott, an AmeriCorps vista worker for Fishes and Loaves, added, “We haven't encountered that much hesitation about getting registered for the vaccine,” said. “People gave us great feedback about the event.”

It has been said that those with pre-existing health conditions, front line workers and elderly people are the ones that are most affected, and that safety measures need to be practiced when out in the community. “It's obviously important for people

to get registered for a vaccine when there is a deadly pandemic out there. For the elderly and people who have higher exposure like the front line workers, it's important for them to have this option to protect themselves and their families,” Taulton expressed. The effort made by these three Hazelwood organizations has continued to show leadership and commitment to helping the community in its entirety. As Taulton affirmed, “We had to get out and make that special effort to make sure our community is healthy.”



Floriated

- Continued from Front Page

Propel Afterschool

- Continued from Front Page

have even gone on to start their own businesses or pursue higher education. Ms. Price explains, “that’s the whole thing about the nursery: it’s not just standing there selling plants. There’s business to be handled. You have to do inventory, keep your taxes paid. There’s a lot more to do than just selling a plant.” Indeed, the youth that have worked with Ms. Price have done everything from small construction projects to creating signs, making sales, and even handling the files—in addition to the expected watering and potting duties. They are adept at looking for opportunities to improve the spaces they are in and making the most of them!

This personalized connection to people and spaces is what distinguishes Floriated Interpretation from larger box stores: Ms. Price is not looking to just sell a plant or just give a kid a job. Floriated Interpretation is her ministry to connect people with the tools and education they need to live a more beautiful and peaceful life—whether they be flowers or transferable skills to build a better future.

Lastly, Floriated Interpretation offers a deeply personal touch that a large chain store does not—and for far lower prices! Ms. Price takes the time to understand what her customers need so she can help

them find the perfect plants for their situation, no matter if it’s a business landscape, office, backyard garden, or wedding. The shop often carries a unique assortment of plant varieties, but Ms. Price plans to add even more new varieties this year. With many people spending so much of their time indoors due to the quarantine, the demand has skyrocketed for easy-to-grow houseplants that can help improve indoor air quality and provide some much-needed life and greenery inside.

If you’d like to have a quiet—but cheerful—potted companion, or bright new feature for your yard this summer, stop by during the week of May 2nd, when the shop will reopen with expanded hours for the first week of the season. Afterwards, it will return to its normal hours, but you can always call 412-607-7886 or email floriatedinterpretation@gmail.com to make an appointment to pick out a plant at the time that suits you best! Regular operating hours are: Thursday through Friday, 11am-6pm; Saturday 11am-7pm; and Sunday, 12pm-4pm. And, if by chance you don’t find the plant you’re looking for, tell Ms. Price and she’ll order it for you! Buy local and shop for your garden needs at Floriated Interpretation: 4737 Second Avenue in Hazelwood.

Typically, Hazelwood would have 4-6 weeks of summer camp for 5 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Weekly field trips in pre-covid times were taken to the Hazelwood Spray Park—always a favorite—Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, and Kennywood Park.

Family engagement is a cornerstone of the afterschool program. During hybrid afterschool, the last half hour (6:15-6:45) is a time when families can call in with questions and comments. In virtual afterschool, the last hours offer family-friendly activities. This semester, families can attend virtual cooking lessons with area chefs through a partnership with Community Kitchen Pittsburgh. Just as the artists in afterschool are local and amazing, the local chefs include CK’s own Rikki Rabin, Chef Claudy Pierre, Chef Carlito, and Hell’s Kitchen former contestant, Jessica

Lewis. Family input is encouraged and we all look forward to the time when parents can once again visit the program in person.

Staffing for the afterschool program is almost entirely from within the building. Mrs. Lynnelle Tyler is beginning her sixth year as the coordinator for the site. She is caring and dependable, and students are happy in her care. “I have had the opportunity to supervise the program going into the 6th year,” said Mrs. Tyler. “It’s my passion to pursue quality, fun learning activities, provide adequate additional help for tutoring, and offer STEAM programs to enhance the experience of learning for our scholars.” Scholars are also excited about afterschool, even in a pandemic, expressing that they’re not ready for it to end.



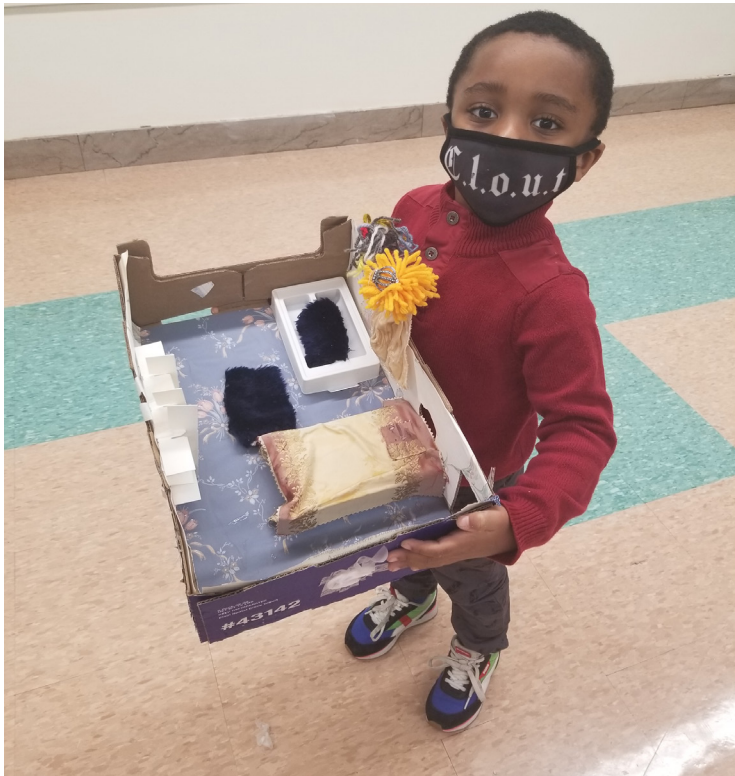
Elaine Price



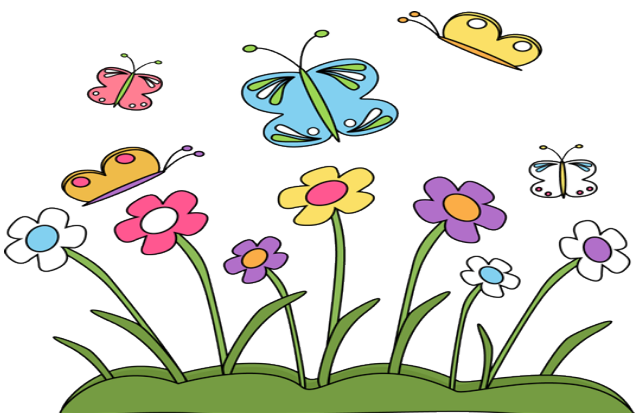
Floriated Interpretation



Making slime with Stem Stars.



One of the miniatures created with help from artist, Sheila Ali.



31ST WARD WIRE

Lincoln Place • Gates Manor

Hays • New Homestead



Our Mission:

The 31st 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 31st Ward and surrounding areas.

31st 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

31st 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

Website: 31stwardcag.org

Find us on Facebook!



31st Ward Flag Fund

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

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

Send a donation via Venmo to @Pgh31stWardCAG
www.venmo.com/Pgh31stWardCAG

The Three Bells of Lincoln Place

By A. George Kohl

The first bell was cast for The Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene in 1900. It is still in weekly use to this day, and in its original belfry. The church name and affiliation are now The Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene. The second bell is The Mifflin School bell, dated 1901, and has recently been restored and located in the new 2005 Mifflin School building addition. Lincoln Place citizens held an oyster supper to raise funds for the bell which cost \$179. The third bell is the fire hall bell cast for the fire hall in 1908. It's now housed in the basement of the Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church.



Holy Angels Parish

Tuesday - 8:00 AM
Thursday - 8:00 AM
Friday - 8:00 AM
Saturday - 8:00 AM
Saturday Vigil - 6:00 AM
Sunday - 9:30 AM
Confession: Saturdays after 8am 'til 9am

Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Service - 9:30 AM
Monday - NA's 7:00 PM
Tuesday - Senior Lunch & more 12:00-2:00 PM
For more info call: 412-461-3377

Lincoln Place Church of the Nazarene

Sunday School (all ages) - 9:30 AM
Children's Church - 10:30 AM
Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Evening Service - 6:30 PM

Monthly food pantry - 3rd Saturday (8:30 AM)
at Lincoln Place Presbyterian

Need a ride to church?
Call Darrel at 412-461-6742

In Memoriam: Dee Boyle

May 9, 1955 - February 23, 2021

On Tuesday February 23rd, Dee Boyle passed away from sudden heart complications. A Hazelwood resident her entire life, she was quite the volunteer. Back in the late 1990s, during the beginnings of Hazelwood Initiative, Dee volunteered in various community activities. She contributed her talents in planting flowers at the several community gardens throughout Hazelwood. Dee, with her husband Bill, volunteered in many Hazelwood clean-ups. Also, she participated in the Parent Teacher Guild (PTG) at St. Stephens School, as well as Bazaars and many fundraisers. Dee and Bill were together 43 years through dating and marriage. Dee helped raise her granddaughter, Callie. She will be missed by family, friends and Hazelwood.

“She always told me that she was not special, but with the outpouring of love and respect by so many family and friends at visitation, it showed she indeed was one special woman.” —Bill Boyle





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Check cashing






31ST WARD SPRING CLEAN-UP

Date: Saturday, April 24th
10 a.m. To 12 p.m.
Location: McBride Park -
1785 McBride Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

- Meet at McBride Park for information, bags, and gloves.
- Volunteers will help clean up several identified targeted areas.
- **Lunch provided for volunteers!**



Hazelwood Riverfront Community Meeting April 7

By Hazelwood Riverfront Master Planning Team

Greater Hazelwood community members, Almono, and others are considering potential improvements and uses for a 1.3-mile stretch of the Hazelwood Riverfront as part of a planning and community input gathering process that began last spring. The Hazelwood Riverfront Master Plan Project will result in a master plan for the area between Blair Street and the Monongahela River from roughly Hazelwood Avenue to the Hot Metal Bridge. The project team will hold its final community meeting on April 7 from 6-8 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom with registration required. A phone-in option is also available for those without computer access. The meeting is an important step in finalizing the master plan. Project planners will share updated designs for future riverfront improvements and address community member questions and concerns.

This meeting follows a three-day workshop held in October, as well as neighborhood and city-wide surveys, presentations at other community meetings, and stakeholder



Amy Camp of the project team with Fran Bertolaschi and Jenn Kim of Hazelwood Initiative at the October Community workshop. Credit: Cycle Forward Environmental Planning & Design

conversations. When completed, the master plan will direct decisions on developing the land for recreational use and public enjoyment, as well as the use and preservation of industrial heritage structures that remain at the river's edge, including a Pump House, mooring cells, platforms, coal loaders and catwalks. Most importantly, the Riverfront Master Plan will further reconnect the surrounding neighborhoods to the river and create a welcoming, accessible space for all to enjoy.

"This community has been a 'riverfront community' forever, but

it hasn't felt like that. So, getting people to a point where they really engage with the water, I think that's going to be a true asset to the community," says Sonya Tilghman, Executive Director of Hazelwood Initiative and a member of the project's Advisory Committee.

While the master plan is expected to be finalized this summer, the recommended improvements are anticipated to be phased in over time as funding sources become

available. This master planning process has been made possible with a Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, along with matching funds from Almono. To learn more about the project, visit www.hazelwoodgreen.com/riverfront or see the December 2020 issue of The Homepage. Any questions about the meeting or project can be directed to Amy Camp at (412) 918-6563 or amy@cycleforward.org. Those interested in attending on April 7 do not need to have access to Zoom. In addition to the Zoom link, which will be provided to registrants, people can call in to listen.

Registration link:

<https://tinyurl.com/wad2xzee>

Call in number (for those without Zoom):

(929) 436-2866

Meeting ID: 849 1264 1758 (If asked to enter a Participant ID, ignore this step.)

Passcode: 654591



Residents and stakeholders at the October community workshop. Credit: Cycle Forward Environmental Planning & Design



Hazelwood's current view of the Monongahela River. Credit: Cycle Forward Environmental Planning & Design

HAZELWOOD RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING

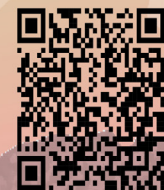
April 7, 2021 6-8 p.m.

REGISTER HERE at <https://tinyurl.com/wad2xzee>

or call in to listen (929) 436-2866

Meeting ID: 849 1264 1758

Passcode: 654591



This meeting is an important step in finalizing the Hazelwood Riverfront Master Plan and follows up on the 2020 Fall workshop and other community conversations.

This meeting will cover:

- Updated designs for future riverfront improvements
- Community member questions, comments, and feedback

A Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, along with matching funds from Almono, are making the master planning process possible.

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **Zoom**.

To learn more, visit
www.HazelwoodGreen.com/riverfront
or call (412) 918-6563

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Almono LP

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PROJECT PLANNING-DESIGN TEAM:

The Green Way Simplicity

We humans are full of contradictions. We are intelligent, powerful, unwise, and destructive. Aware of the enormous problems at this moment in history, we watch baseball or distract ourselves in some other way instead. I'm no different. Born with a good brain, I've done some really stupid things. I drank and smoked heavily, and became addicted to stimulants such as caffeine and cocaine. "None so blind as those who will not see."

A simple path to the Heaven on Earth that's possible is to just stop doing the stupid things. Get off of fossil fuels; stop manufacturing plastics and go to bioplastics; stop cutting down trees; stop making chemical fertilizer; stop making "foods" that are not really foods but processed combinations of foods, poisonous preservative substances, addictive substances such as MSG,

sugar and corn syrup (which is contaminated with mercury). Just because something is profitable does not mean it's good. War is as profitable as it is destructive. We need to stop fighting and make friends with each other. Everything is alive and here for a reason. The mess we're in is corrective, forcing us to re-think our priorities. Only by waking up will we survive as a species.

Nuclear power reactors are damaging to the environment and need to be shut down. They are no more needed than gasoline, oil, natural gas, or coal. Albert Einstein called nuclear power "a hell of a way to boil water." The nuclear power industry was established as a secret way to manufacture bombs. We don't need nuclear power any more than we need coal, gas, or oil.

Mike Stout is an activist who risked his life both as union steward

of the Homestead steel mill and with the civil rights movement down south. He is now a musician, and invites us to join the Izaak Walton League of America, one of the oldest conservation organizations in the country. The League's local branch is planting thousands of trees in the area. The time we are in is unprecedented. Let's seize the opportunity to change.



Jim McCue (St. Jim the Composter)
Composter & Biotech Researcher
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Arbor Day

By Jeff Karwoski

There's an important date coming up. I'm sure you all have it marked in your calendars. No, it's not April 15th. As exciting as Tax Day is, there's another date to save in the month of April. I'll give you a hint: it is a day to celebrate trees. That's right, Arbor Day!

Celebrated around the world, Arbor Day gives us an opportunity to pay homage to trees and all that they do for us. It was officially celebrated in 1805 by a Spanish priest who organized the annual celebration as a reminder of the importance of trees. This priest understood trees were vital to the wellbeing of nature and man's place in it. As the story goes, a poplar tree was planted to kick off the celebration, followed by three days of planting and partying. Now that's my kind of holiday! Don Juan Abern Samtres knew what was up. He not only was able to recognize the immense value trees have in our lives, he was able to draft his thoughts into a manifesto that was sent to neighboring towns to encourage others to pursue a similar relationship with the natural world.

Fast forward to 1872 in Nebraska City, USA. J. Sterling Morton purchases 160 acres of treeless land in the Nebraska territory. He engages his interest in trees by planting the

property with rare varieties of heirloom apple trees. Morton became a respected agriculturalist, instructing people in modern farming and forestry techniques of the time. Morton became secretary of the Nebraska Territories, then went on to become Governor of Nebraska. He used his political power to organize the first Arbor Day celebration in America by planting one million trees across the state. He also used his power to suppress the rights of Black people by professing his support for slavery. He was an outspoken bigot who was appointed by President Cleveland to the Secretary of Agriculture. He now stands at an awkward place in history where his good deeds have gone on to inspire millions but his villainy towards his fellow man has not been forgotten.

On a more positive note, his son, Joy Morton went on to create the Morton Arboretum, a 1,700-acre homage to the world of plants. This stunning display of over 200,000 plants is visited by over a million people a year, providing education as well as wonderment. There are arboretums found throughout the world. It is a common thread through humanity to want to plant and display trees and shrubs. Here in Pittsburgh, you can visit Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the Chatham University arboretum and

The Frick to view "specimen" trees labeled with identification tags. A walk through the Woodland and Asian Woodland area of the Pittsburgh Botanical Garden will help you put a name to plants you might be familiar with, and some new and exciting ones too.

These facilities, some of which are longstanding icons in the Pittsburgh community, have helped connect people with the world of plants through carefully crafted displays made by dedicated staff members. Pittsburghers' love of trees has not gone unnoticed, as the city will go on this year to celebrate its 16th year as an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA. Boasting 41% of the city covered in tree canopy, Pittsburgh is one of the most densely forested cities in America. It is also on the forefront of arboricultural awareness thanks to the hardworking folks at Tree Pittsburgh who, along with the city forester and supporting organizations like the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, work toward greening the city even further.

Arbor Day is a day to reflect on trees and the types of organizations who have championed the connection we have with them. It is also intended to be a day of action, a time to get involved. Even though we live in an area more forested than most, we are losing canopy at an increas-

ing rate. At a time when we need to be planting trees, we are rapidly losing our forests. Some of this is due to pests and diseases, like the Emerald ash borer beetle that has devastated the once prominent ash tree population. Oak wilt is a fungal infection that is killing thousands of red oaks in Western PA. On top of these damaging natural killers of our forests, we are experiencing unbridled development in Allegheny County, which eliminates countless trees in favor of economic development.

Arbor Day can be viewed as an invitation for us to get involved. A holiday that is as much a celebration as it is a call to arms in the effort to preserve and protect what is most dear to us. So, let's come together this April 30th in whatever way we can to show our love and support for the plants that make this world a beautiful place to live. Whether it's by visiting one of the gardens I mentioned above, joining a tree planting organization or simply taking a walk in the park, may you enjoy this upcoming Arbor Day to the fullest.



Hazelwood's Urban Agriculture Movement is Growing

By Matt Peters,
Community Garden Manager

Springtime holds special promise for gardeners. It is the season when our winter plans burst into flower, a busy time of preparing soil and planting seeds for summer abundance. Last year's pandemic didn't slow us down at all. In fact, gardening and food production took special significance for housebound people with a sudden supply of free time, and new worries about food security during a time of job cuts and economic hardship.

The popularity of the bed-allotment opportunity at the former YMCA garden site shows that there is substantial demand for gardens and all they have to offer. In 2019, the Hazelwood Urban Ag Team was awarded a grant to fund the purchase of materials to build 18 new raised-



Credit: Al Ferguson

bed frames, and these were all spoken for within a few weeks! This shows that access to land for gardens and food production is an important consideration as our neighborhood begins to rebuild after decades of disinvestment and decay. We have a number of garden sites available to residents, such as the Glen Hazel Community Garden. This garden was started by Glen residents, for Glen residents. A tool shed was

built by volunteers from The Mission Continues in 2019, and plans to install a rainwater catchment system are in the works for this year.

The legacy of food production in the roadside gardens along Langhorn Street is a living memory of our nation's history, remembering the Victory Garden era of World War II and the Great Depression of the 1930s. These lots, worked by the Strati family since the 1950s,

are now available to the community by arrangement with the family. The City seems unable to figure out how to include this in land-access programs like Adopt-A-Lot or other "official" channels, and we've been unable to find a way to insure the site, so use is at-your-own-risk. We are confident that people interested in this opportunity will be able to take responsibility for their own behavior, and hopeful that this will be an example of how a community can work together without corporate baby-sitters or the parasitic insurance industry.

Folks interested in signing up for a garden bed can contact Matt Peters through the Hazelwood Initiative office, or email gardens@hazelwoodinitiative.org. Beds are free but we ask for a ten dollar deposit, which will be returned to you when you relinquish your claim on your bed.

New Programs to Grow, Improve Neighborhood Trees and Combat Climate Change

By Matt Erb, Tree Pittsburgh

Thanks to the support of the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Hazelwood Initiative and Tree Pittsburgh are launching an effort to increase public awareness and public engagement in protecting and growing tree canopy in Hazelwood and Glen Hazel. Residents identified the creation of a neighborhood ReLeaf plan as part of the 2019 Greater Hazelwood Community Plan. A ReLeaf plan is a tool for community members to take ownership and management of their neighborhood trees.

The ReLeaf planning process includes: reporting on the current state of the neighborhoods' trees, identifying residents' visions and goals for the local tree canopy (the area covered by leaves and branches of trees), and developing an action plan to achieve those goals. Matt Erb, Director of Urban Forestry at Tree Pittsburgh, will lend his 15+ years of experience as an ISA Certified Arborist to the creation of the ReLeaf Plan.

Adding momentum to the ReLeaf planning process, additional funds were awarded to bring immersive climate education to the community, distributing trees to residents and providing family-centered engagement opportunities that connect tree planting to community resilience. Tree Pittsburgh, in collabora-

tion with the Hazelwood Initiative, will host adult and youth education programs and tree care activities throughout the summer before hosting Tree Adoption events this fall and next spring.

As the impact of climate change grows in communities around the globe, cities are particularly vulnerable to rising temperatures and severe weather events. Trees positively impact human health and community vitality in urban areas by cooling and cleaning the air, absorbing rain water, and improving community and mental health outcomes. With the negative impacts of climate change on the rise, the need for trees and a more robust and resilient urban tree canopy becomes increasingly urgent. Tree Pittsburgh's analysis shows that the greatest opportunity to grow the City's tree canopy is on private property. Through tree adoption events, trees will be distributed along with education on how to plant and care for them so that they grow to maturity to provide shade and beauty, capture stormwater runoff, and clean the air for generations to come.

Local data reveals that the neighborhoods with the lowest tree canopy are also areas where surface temperature is hotter in the summer, air pollution is worse, and asthma rates are higher. Nearly half of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods fall be-

low the City average of 41% tree canopy. Based on Tree Pittsburgh's 2010-2015 tree canopy change data, Hazelwood lost 34 acres of tree canopy, making it the fourth highest loss of all City neighborhoods. The neighborhood's tree canopy cover dropped from 32% canopy in 2010 to 29% canopy in 2015, well below the 2015 citywide average of 41%. Glen Hazel had the second-lowest amount of loss in the City, only losing 1.6 acres of tree canopy. Its overall cover changed from 66.4% to 66% between 2010 and 2015, making it the fourth highest canopied neighborhood, primarily because so little of the land in the neighborhood has been developed. In addition to the Greater Hazelwood area, Tree Pittsburgh will work with Lawrenceville, Manchester, and Chateau to update their ReLeaf plans. Those communities, along with Home-

wood, will benefit from tree adoption events this fall.

Tree Pittsburgh is an environmental nonprofit dedicated to the urban forest in Allegheny County. We grow, plant, and care for trees; advocate for their protection; and provide education for all ages. We started in 2006 and are celebrating our 15th anniversary this year! Our headquarters, including our offices, education center, and Heritage Nursery operations are located along the Allegheny River in Lawrenceville. To learn more about Tree Pittsburgh and the ReLeaf planning process, visit www.treepittsburgh.org. Residents interested in participating on the ReLeaf advisory team should contact the Hazelwood Initiative. Stay tuned for upcoming community meetings and program announcements.



Children and their families enjoy learning about trees at a storybook reading at Tree Pittsburgh's education center.

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55 Million More Reasons to Defund the Mon-Oakland Connector

By Junction Coalition

The COVID-19 emergency has shone a harsh light on Pittsburgh’s funding priorities. One glaring example is the Mon-Oakland Connector (MOC), a controversial luxury micro-transit project that primarily serves the Hazelwood Green development and has earned distrust from residents of affected communities. The foundations that own Hazelwood Green imagine it as a second campus for CMU and Pitt. In a 2009 report, the Remaking Cities Institute of Carnegie Mellon University called a dedicated connection between Oakland and Hazelwood, “the singular most important gesture that will ensure the success of the Almono site’s redevelopment.” “What was problematic before the pandemic became unconscionable in this climate,” said Laura Wiens, director of Pittsburghers for Public Transit. “Funding this project would mean that other critical needs aren’t being met right now.”

Pittsburgh, like many cities, was hit hard. “Our tax revenues cratered, and there is still no clear path forward to replace them,” Mayor Bill Peduto stated in his 2021 budget speech. Pittsburgh faced a \$55 million operating budget deficit at the close of 2020, and is depending on federal aid to avoid \$25.6 million in personnel cuts starting in July 2021. About 634 city employees stand to lose their jobs. An unanimously-approved budget amendment proposed by Councilman Corey O’Connor, whose district includes two MOC-affected communities, moved \$4.15 million from the MOC. Those funds made up the 2021 budget for the MOC. They were redirected to the Housing Opportunity Fund (this citywide program received \$1.9 million, \$750,000 of which is earmarked for the Flats on Forward development in Squirrel Hill, leaving a little over half for Pittsburghers struggling to stay in existing housing), support for small businesses, and infrastructure improvements in Hazelwood. Yet plans move forward to build the MOC shuttle road through Schenley Park and adjacent neighborhoods. Almono Partners spokesperson David Caligiuri said the foundations “believe the Mon-Oakland Connector remains a critical economic development effort for the City of Pittsburgh and the entire region,”

and are committed to funding the shuttle service. MOC may have lost 2021 funds from its total price tag of \$23 million, but it’s still flush with an unknown portion of \$14.5 million already granted in the 2018 and 2019 budgets.

The MOC has a long, shady history (its most recent chapter began with a fraudulent grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development) and continues to function as a magic-bag project with components and costs that morph according to justifications needed for it at any given time. For example, Pittsburgh’s Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) claimed in a January 2020 memo that Irvine St./Second Ave. sidewalk repairs in Hazelwood—a key component of the community-generated Our Money, Our Solutions alternative plan—was always part of the MOC. By October, DOMI’s commitment to fund those repairs had vanished from the MOC budget.

For some neighborhoods—especially Panther Hollow and The Run—harm from the MOC goes beyond diverting limited resources. Two groups of residents in The Run are at risk of being displaced by the shuttle road: those who live near Swinburne Bridge, which DOMI has decided to replace rather than repair so the bridge can be widened for a dedicated MOC shuttle lane; and those who live in flood-prone areas near Big Jim’s. The first group has already received letters

from DOMI implying the City may use eminent domain to take property for the bridge replacement. The second group is some or all of the “affected properties” listed in PWSA documents concerning their Four Mile Run Stormwater Project. These internal documents, obtained through Right-to-Know requests, also reveal that the stormwater project was designed around the MOC and will not adequately protect people’s homes. One proposed solution involves a “discussion regarding property acquisition and other discussions that will not be widely popular.”

The stormwater project, for which the PWSA secured \$40 million, was billed as a solution to The Run’s flooding problem. But less than half of those funds are being spent on stormwater work in Schenley Park. According to PWSA acting senior manager of public affairs, Rebecca Zito, “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.”

Besides forcing families out—some of whom have lived in The Run for three generations—the legally questionable use of eminent domain to serve a development project also removes affected properties from the tax rolls. About

40% of land in Pittsburgh is already tax-exempt because the government, universities, and other non-profits own it. A lack of accountability and transparency surrounding the MOC has allowed DOMI to plan at will behind a screen of public-facing gestures since the department’s inception in 2017. But signs point to a reckoning for the MOC. According to the Transit Center organization, “PPT is working with the city auditor to assess options for formally moving the money, and to make recommendations about how that money should be spent.”

In past years, City officials have answered public calls to defund the MOC by saying those capital budget funds can’t be applied to other areas of need like the operating budget. This position becomes harder to maintain now that \$1.9 million has been moved from the MOC to the Housing Opportunity Fund, decidedly not part of the capital budget. There is no shortage of ways Pittsburgh could reallocate \$14.5 million to meet critical needs of residents. Keeping those funds in reserve for an unpopular, top-down project like the MOC is a disgrace in today’s austere climate.

You can read this article with links to source material at www.junctioncoalition.org/2021/03/10/55m-more-reasons-to-defund-the-mon-oakland

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With Hike, Community Group Takes Steps to Help Hazelwood's Greenway and its Surroundings

By Patricia Sheridan

Hazelwood's green space could have a home on the History Channel's "Life After People." Similar to the TV show's premise, the green space was once developed, then reclaimed by nature in a process that has taken more than four decades. On Sunday, the Hazelwood Initiative, a community-based organization that aims to strengthen the neighborhood through inclusive development, offered a "Hike the Hazelwood Greenway" tour for local residents, nature lovers and anyone who wanted to help identify areas of the trail that need improvement.

The two-hour event was the last of three hikes to explore different sections of the 183-acre Greenway. The latest hike took place on the Glen Hazel side of the Greenway near the Glen Hazel apartments—an area that could potentially become a formal part of the Hazelwood Greenway. "If these woodlands are added to the Greenway, it would create a bio-corridor connecting Schenley Park and Frick Park," said Tiffany Taulton, director of community initiatives for the Hazelwood Initiative. The hikers were tasked with helping to identify areas that could be made more accessible to the surrounding neighborhood, which would allow more people to enjoy the urban forest.

The Greenway wasn't always so green. "It came about as a result of the population decline that took hold after the steel industry collapsed in our region," said Ms. Taulton, who also is an adjunct professor at the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences at Duquesne University. Abandoned homes were torn down and roads allowed to deteriorate as Mother Nature took back what had been hers. Ghost roads and old foundations can be spotted here and there. "Hazelwood used to be a population of approximately 13,000, and now it's down to nearly 5,000," Ms. Taulton said.

"A lot of these forests are on land that is not necessarily protected, which means they are vulnerable to development," said Matt Peters, urban garden manager for the Hazelwood Initiative. The Sunday event gave hikers a clearer picture of the community's access to natural space and how to best preserve, protect

and nurture it for the good of the surrounding neighborhoods. The Initiative is focused on the sustainability aspect and recently secured grants from Tree Pittsburgh—to plant more trees in the neighborhood—and the Trust for Public Land, which has given money to improve the Greenway.

"Trail improvement, better signage and noting certain areas we need to make less erosion-prone as well as adding benches is all part of today's exploration," said Ms. Taulton, addressing the group, which had gathered around the gazebo at Roselle Court, as they headed up Johnston Avenue. Mr. Peters pointed out an unusable set of crumbling concrete stairs with a twisted, rusted railing leading into underbrush. "That obviously used to lead somewhere," he said. Now, these large areas of natural habitat can provide ginseng and goldenseal and other natural herbs. They also can be an important migratory stop for birds and home to deer, coyote, raccoons, fox, squirrels and the occasional bear, among other creatures.

The snow-covered landscape revealed the problem of invasive species. "These curving bushes are Korean bush honeysuckle," said Gavin White, pointing to what looked like very thick vines. Mr. White, a Hazelwood Initiative board member, said, "They take over the understory of the forest and are allelopathic, which means they use their secretions to prevent growth from any other plants. They end up becoming a pretty serious monoculture," he said, adding that the variety of honeysuckle arrived here in the 1950s after the Korean War. "Other, thick vines hung from tall trees—those are native to Western Pennsylvania."

These forests and these hills have a biological legacy that is literally as old as the coal," Mr. Peters said. The forests hadn't been disturbed until 250 years ago. "In a healthy, mixed mother forest, there should be up to 180 canopy species—tall trees," he said. What is seen in much of the Greenway today is black cherry and black locust trees starting a primary canopy restoration. The Initiative hopes to replace the Korean bush honeysuckle with hazelnut trees and evergreens. "The forest could use more pine trees, which will help



Credit: Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

with diversification of species and for the air quality of the region," Ms. Taulton said.

Another issue with the Greenway was pointed out during the tour: illegal dumping. Residents can call 311 to get it removed. With the removal of trash, the Greenway will become healthier. So, too, will the surrounding community, according to the Initiative. "Pittsburgh is unique because of its urban forests, which are such a respite for so many species. We can't take it for granted because they are so overtaxed," Mr. Peters said. One of the issues burdening our forest is climate change. "The weather patterns are changing, and the pests are changing with them, such as the gypsy moth, the spotted lantern fly and the emerald ash borer, and we are entering a decline in tree species just because of climate change," Ms. Taulton said. "Taking down trees is a risk. You want to preserve the older trees that help the younger trees in the forest."

So, what keeps the Greenway from being part of the Pittsburgh Parks system? "Money," Ms. Taulton said. "It takes money to be part of the park system because then they have to maintain it. These areas are not maintained by the city." She is hoping that the information gathered during Sunday's hike and

the previous two hikes will provide good feedback when she meets with city planners Monday to discuss the Greenway.

Success will require "a different model of development," Mr. Peters said. "It's about development without displacement and creating more affordable housing within the city and commercial business space so our local business people can remain," Ms. Taulton said. On Monday, the city said it would invest \$50,000 through Trust for Public Land that will go toward the formation of a pilot program for groups "to access resources needed to create safe, high quality, natural community assets that also can withstand and provide protection from Pittsburgh's changing climate," the city said in a release. It said the Hazelwood Greenway Stewardship Group, a group of neighborhood volunteers, and the Hazelwood Initiative will work with the city's planning department to "engage the community to determine how to invest resources through a platform of support options, including those leveraging resources from the City operations and staff."

This article was first published February 22, 2021 via the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Thursday, April 8th - Arts Excursions Unlimited Night Market**
- **Tuesday, April 13th - HI Community Meeting**
- **Monday, April 26th - Environmental Development Meeting**

Pittsburgh Marathon Hosts "Let's Move" Event in Hazelwood

By Gerri Tipton

Getting up and moving is something that most everyone looks forward to, especially since the pandemic hit. Since Covid caused us to stay in the house more than we would have liked, we tried to find ways to get out, whether it's a trip to the store or a walk on the trail. March 13th was the perfect day to get people out into the community to move due to nice weather and P3R, also known as the Pittsburgh Marathon, hosting their first annual "Let's Move" event in Hazelwood's Burgwin Park.

Partners such as the YMCA, Duquesne University, Student Conservation Association, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy came out to Hazelwood to give the community helpful information about their services and the importance of moving. Kathryn Hunnien, who works for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, talked about how P3R was one of the first contacts who reached out to her to participate in their event.

"P3R reached out to the parks conservancy about doing a series of

community-based events that are all geared towards getting people outdoors and moving, and bringing the community together," said Derrick Shoffner, P3R's program service coordinator. He said the event took about three months to come together. "It was just an idea that we had that just came to us via members of our team as a really organic way to engage in the community and provide a way for people to move. Everyone is really anxious to be outside so we wanted to provide a vehicle to do that safely."

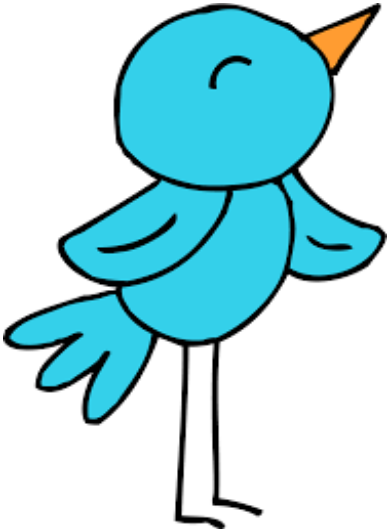
P3R's CEO Troy Schooley inspires everyone to get out and move, and thought it was very important to start going to different communities to get folks actively moving. "We have so many great partners that we wanted to invite to come out and give recognition to them, and let the community see all of our different partners as well as to move with us. This is our first event with many more to come."

With Hazelwood being the first neighborhood to kick off their event series, P3R also has plans to visit

other neighborhood parks such as Riverview, Westinghouse, Regional and Highland. "It's important to know that these events aren't just one-offs; we're going to do this throughout and we are going to continue to get people to move. We can inspire people to come out and move with us and learn about all of the community partners," said Schooley.

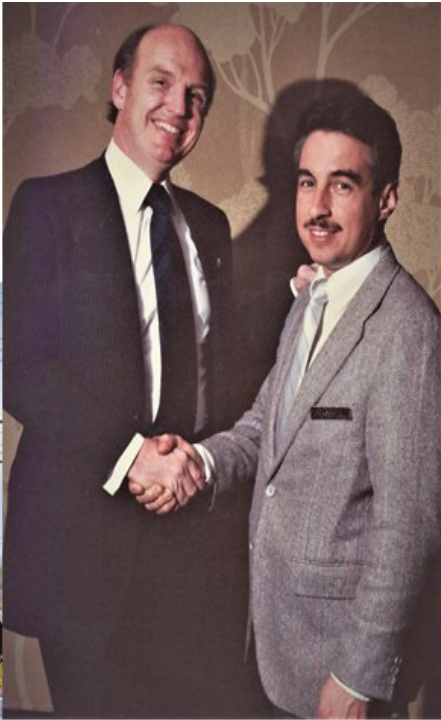
One of the other well-known partners at the event was Duquesne University. They provided health screenings to community members. Paige Williams, who works at the university's center for integrative health as a manager, talked about the importance of health screenings in addition to home assessments. "Along with the screenings being done today, if someone wants a home assessment, we'll go into the person's home and screen for all of the different social determinants of health and chronic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, substance use disorder. We have a lot of free health services available."

It's very important for organizations such as P3R to get into our communities to educate people about who they are and the services they provide. It can be very helpful to neighborhoods like Hazelwood to know about the importance of health and being even slightly active. "I think there is light at the end of the tunnel with the pandemic in itself, so as restrictions ease a little bit, we can accommodate more people and invite more partners out," said Schooley. "It will be important for us to do this not just once, but to continue year after year."



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We Are City of Bridges Community Land Trust

By Crystal Jennings & Ed Nusser

For the first time in nearly 60 years, communities throughout Pittsburgh are witnessing escalating home prices. This is an outgrowth of Pittsburgh’s recent economic improvement. However, this economic improvement has not benefitted all residents equally. When viewed through the real estate market, the financial and personal benefits of regional economic growth have generally benefitted a relative handful of individuals and developers, while long-time residents, senior citizens, and young families find it increasingly difficult to find high-quality affordable housing in Pittsburgh. Community Land Trusts, or CLTs, are one tool to help counter market pressure, prevent displacement, and create and preserve affordable homes for residents no matter what happens in the surrounding real estate market.

Nationally, community land trusts have a 50-year track record of creating and delivering permanently affordable housing. The community land trust has a web of origins and influences, but the CLT movement

is rooted in the Civil Rights Era of the 1960’s, beginning with Black tenant farmers in Albany, Georgia who started New Communities, Inc., which is viewed as the first Community Land Trust in the US. As of 2019, there were around 250 CLTs in 45 states, which combined have created over12,000 homes. Nationally, 79% of CLT residents are first-time homebuyers, and they are 10 times less likely to default on their mortgages compared to market rate homeowners.

CLTs achieve permanent affordability through value separation. In the CLT model, the value of land and the value of the home that sits on the land is split. The community, through the CLT, permanently owns land and sells homes to income qualified homeowners. CLTs and their homeowners enter into a ground lease which allows the homeowner the right to occupy and use the land that the community owns. The ground lease contains a resale formula that sets a ceiling on the maximum resale price of the home, allowing the current homeowner to build wealth while also ensuring that the home remains affordable for

future low-income buyers.

The model also allows CLTs to serve as the first rung of the ladder of homeownership for the majority of buyers. Nationally, 70% of CLT homeowners use the equity they build through CLT homeownership to buy a market rate home after selling their CLT home. Despite the similar names, Community Land Trusts and Land Banks are quite different. Land Banks are typically operated by local government; Land Trusts are independent nonprofit organizations. Land Banks exist to acquire vacant and tax delinquent properties and hold them just long enough so that they can be redeveloped; Land Trusts, on behalf of the communities they serve, permanently own land to ensure that community goals are achieved.

Locally, City of Bridges CLT (CBCLT) is working to bring the CLT model of permanently affordable housing to communities throughout Pittsburgh. They are a 2-year-old, regional CLT serving the City of Pittsburgh as well as suburban communities adjacent to the City. CBCLT seeks to create and support diverse communities where people

thrive, build wealth, establish roots, and foster community ties without risk of displacement.

As a Community Land Trust, CBCLT believes in direct governance. They are a membership organization open to anyone who lives in a community served by the organization—this includes the City neighborhoods of Lawrenceville, Garfield, East Liberty, Hazelwood, Fineview, Perry Hilltop, and Polish Hill. CBCLT membership elects the board at annual meetings. One-third of its board seats are reserved for CBCLT homeowners, and an additional one-third is reserved for community representatives of the various and diverse communities they serve.

City of Bridges CLT is currently part of the development team for the 4800 2nd Avenue project, and is working to create 12 permanently affordable homes as part of that project. For more information about City of Bridges, visit www.cityofbridgesclt.org, or contact their Stewardship & Community Engagement Manager, Crystal Jennings at crystal@cityofbridgesclt.org, or 412-621-1811 ext. 110.

Greater Hazelwood Prayer Initiative



Greetings in Jesus’ Name,

*We would like to invite you, your church members, and your neighbors to join us on the Greater Hazelwood monthly prayer line. This conference call prayer line is open to ALL! Mark your calendar and join us on **April 20th @ 7:00pm.** (3rd Tuesday monthly)*

The number to call in 425-436-6395, 257175#. This is a toll-free call.

Prayer for family, friends, the country, sick and shut- in, youth, jobs, addictions, military, churches, community business, seniors, COVID-19, first responders, our neighbors, and all other requests...

Spread the word and join your community in prayer. A Family that prays together stays together.



Please announce and post on your church announcements

Questions or contacts jeffries339@aol.com or juan-ita52@comcast.net

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- Must meet Special Needs Requirement*
- Less than 50% AMI

	50% AMI	60% AMI
1-person household	29,050	34,860
2-person household	33,200	39,840
3-person household	37,350	44,820
4-person household	41,500	49,800

*Physically and/or mentally disabled, Developmentally disabled, Persons recovering from domestic abuse (physical abuse), Persons recovering from domestic abuse (emotional abuse), Persons recovering from chemical dependency, Persons with HIV/AIDS

Contact Us For More Information

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4901 2nd Ave. Fl.2, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Selling Your Home During COVID-19: 5 Strategies for Success

By Julie Block

In March 2020 when we all huddled inside and wondered what the future held, we weren't sure what was going to happen to the real estate market. As businesses closed and people found themselves unemployed, we couldn't help but remember the last housing crisis our country endured. To our surprise, the housing market has remained surprisingly strong over the last year, turning out excellent results for homeowners ready to sell. In fact, many of the homeowners we've worked with have been pleased to receive more than asking. Despite the signs of strength, we're aware that the pandemic could change the market at any moment. With that in mind, sellers hoping to sell their home in 2021 should stay mindful of the following recommendations:

1. Appropriately adjust your expectations. Over the last year or so during COVID-19, many of the houses we've put on the market have sold in a matter of days. While that has us excited and optimistic, it's important to remember that selling a home isn't always that quick! Some properties can stay on the market for nearly a month before going under contract, and then you need the buyer to close on their purchase loan. All told, the entire selling process



frequently takes a little over two months.

2. Determine whether you have positive home equity. In simple terms, your home equity is the amount of your home you own outright (versus how much you still owe on your mortgage). Being equity positive means you can sell your home without owing anything else on it. If you are equity negative, you could actually lose money on the sale of your home, which could be especially disastrous if you've already been negatively impacted by the coronavirus. In that case, you may benefit from staying in your current home a little longer until you're able to successfully reach positive equity. When considering your home equity, keep in mind that many Pittsburgh homes have seen healthy boosts in value over the last

year, and any increase in home value is an increase in equity!

3. Understand the best times to sell. In general, the first half of May is the best time to put your home on the market because sellers often receive more for their homes—but, in Pittsburgh, homes sell quickest from July to October, with another quick sprint in December. According to HomeLight, homes sell 14 days faster in September when compared to the rest of the year. Of course, COVID-19 has changed the market dramatically, so check with your real estate agent for additional perspective on your neighborhood and Pittsburgh in general.

4. Clean and stage your home. Cleaning and staging are important for getting great photos into your listing, but there are other reasons

for keeping a tidy homestead. Modified open houses and tours are still a viable option during COVID-19. However, if you're still living in your home while it's on the market, you may be uncomfortable with strangers streaming through. In that case, 3D walkthroughs are a viable alternative to reducing the spread of disease while still allowing potential buyers to get an up-close view of your home.

5. Work with an experienced real estate agent. You'll be hard-pressed to find a real estate agent who has experience working in a global pandemic, but general experience is especially important when changes in the market create uncertainty. Experienced agents are more likely to have access to better resources (like the technology necessary for 3D walkthroughs) and are more likely to perform well in high-pressure situations that COVID-19 can create.

If you have any additional questions about selling your home during COVID-19, feel free to reach out to us directly by emailing theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com or by calling 412.926.7976.

Julie and Ted Block are RE/MAX Select real estate agents serving Greenfield, Hazelwood, and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance Program: Drop-In Centers

Please follow CDC protocols at all drop-in centers. Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth, stay 6 feet away from others and stay home if you are sick.

1. Focus on Renewal

420 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks PA, 15136
Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,
Tues: 11:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

2. Gwen's Girls

711 W. Commons 3rd Floor, Pittsburgh PA, 15212
Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wed: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

3. Kingsley Association

6435 Frankstown Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

4. Wilkinsburg Family Support

807 Wallace Avenue, Pittsburgh PA, 15221
Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wed: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

5. Greater Valley Community Services

300 Holland Avenue, Braddock PA, 15104
Hours: Mon, Tues: 12 p.m. – 7 p.m., Wed, Thurs,
Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

6. South Hills Interfaith Movement - Bethel Park

5301 Park Avenue, Bethel Park PA, 15102
Hours: Mon: 12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Tues, Wed: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Thurs: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

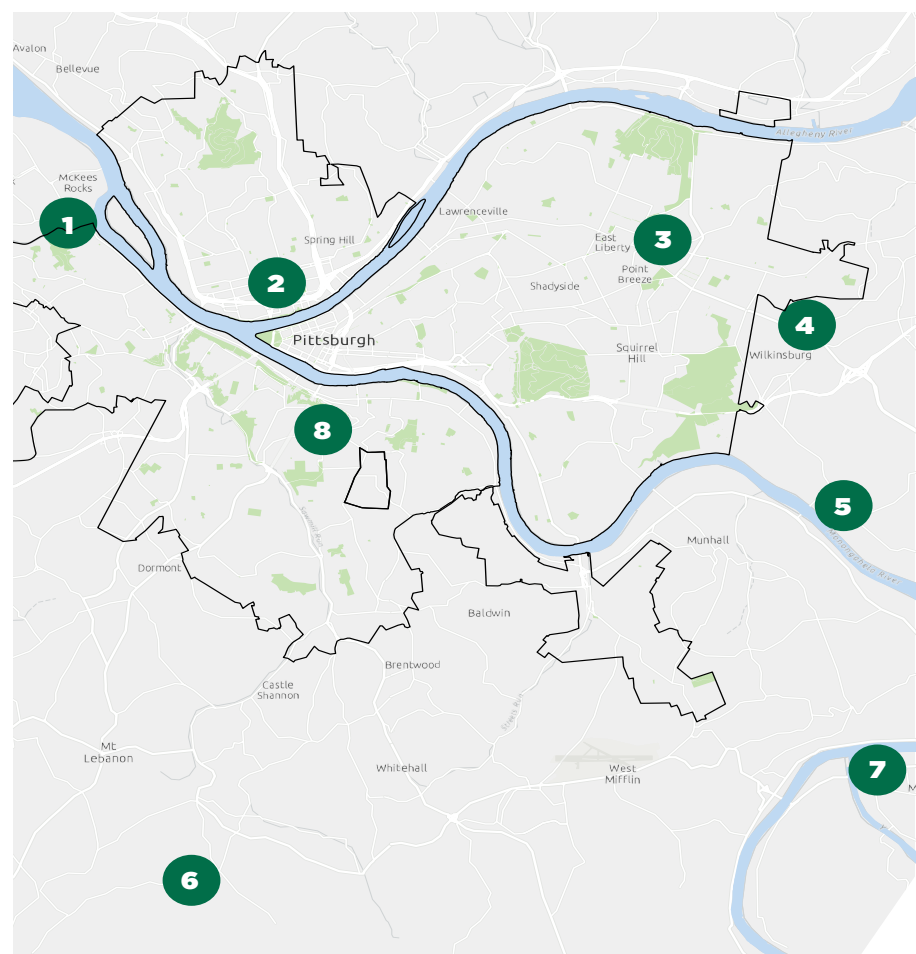
7. The Wellness Collective

337 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport PA, 15132
Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thurs: 12 p.m. – 8 p.m., Fri: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
(closed Thursdays from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.)

8. Brashear Association's Neighborhood Employment Center

Opens March 22, 2021

730 E. Warrington Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15210
Hours: Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.



Questions? Contact ACTION-Housing at 412-248-0021 or rentalassistance@actionhousing.org.

UPDATED 3/14/2021



What's Happening in Hazelwood

Hello,

We are thankful to Elevationz for hosting the kick-off election event for mayoral candidate, Ed Gainey. The community was glad to meet one of the candidates as they consider and make their decisions. We believe knowledge empowers the community to have a voice. An upcoming event will be announced at a later date. Please keep an eye on The Homepage for details.

Blessings,
Pastor Dorothy Stubbs, New Evangelistic Ministries



City residents picking up trees for their yards at one of Tree Pittsburgh's tree adoption events in 2019.



Residents and stakeholders at the October community workshop. Credit: Cycle Forward Environmental Planning & Design



Learning about different tree seeds and how they grow at the Tree Pittsburgh Heritage Nursery.



Dear Friends,

Sixteen years ago, I found out about a molecule natural to our bodies called Glutathione, and have been taking it in an oral supplement form as Acetyl-Glutathione ever since. This is clearly the most important molecule, and I just launched a website solely devoted to it called GlutathionePharmacist.com. On this site you will find information, studies, and patient testimonials.

In our Western society we over-indulge in sweets, high carb foods, processed toxic foods and plenty of alcohol. These have a huge negative impact on our livers, our most important detox organ. Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), the accumulation of excess fat in the liver in the absence of alcohol abuse, currently affects between 30 and 40 percent of the United States population, leading experts to describe the growing incidence of the disease as an “epidemic.” While NAFLD can be mild, roughly one out of five cases will progress to steatohepatitis (a more severe form of the disease), thereby setting the stage for liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and death. Incidentally, from 2000 to 2015, death rates for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis in the United States jumped by 31 percent among people aged 45 to 64 years.

The liver, a three-pound organ nestled right under the ribcage, is a virtual superhero when it comes to detoxifying the body, cleansing the blood and fighting infections. But, the barrage of environmental toxins to which we are exposed on a regular basis—a “witch’s brew” of synthetic chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals, secondhand smoke and industrial emission—exerts a toxic burden that can impair liver function and health. Add to this toxic burden the adverse effects of mercury dental fillings, alcohol use, sedentary lifestyle and the sugar-laden, GMO-heavy stan-

Glutathione: The Liver's Best Friend

dard American diet—and it’s clear the detoxifying powers of the liver are being challenged like no other time in history. That’s the bad news. Now, for the good news. An array of non-toxic natural nutrients awaits, ready to go to work combating liver damage, reducing fatty deposits and helping the liver regenerate and renew itself. Here are the top 10 herbs and supplements that, when used with lifestyle changes such as exercise and proper nutrition, can help.

- Milk thistle extracts improve liver function on many levels
- Glutathione, the body’s “master antioxidant,” is a major player in liver health
- The anti-inflammatory power of ginger for optimal liver health
- Curcumin in turmeric helps to “put the brakes on” NAFLD
- The mighty mineral zinc offers powerful effects against fatty liver disease
- Vitamin C helps to neutralize toxins within the liver
- Alpha lipoic acid rejuvenates the liver naturally without negative side effects
- Get proactive about your liver health with probiotics
- CoQ10 may help reverse NAFLD and prevent progression to NASH
- Phosphatidylcholine promotes the breakdown of fats and the regrowth of liver cells

Glutathione, a disease-fighting natural molecule found in every cell, is often described as the body’s master antioxidant. Its tasks include neutralizing free radicals, preventing oxidative damage, protecting delicate cell mitochondria, repairing DNA and transporting vital amino acids in and out of cells. Glutathione also acts as a sort of bodyguard and facilitator for other indispensable antioxidants, recycling and renewing the body’s stores of vitamin C, vitamin E, alpha lipoic acid and CoQ10. In addition, glutathione contains sulfur, which binds to toxins and free radicals and helps flush them harmlessly from the body.

While life-sustaining glutathione is abundant in young people, levels drop with normal aging. Other threats to glutathione levels include age, illness, injury, stress, environmental toxins and medications like acetaminophen and antibiotics. Keep in mind, insufficient levels of glutathione can cripple the detoxification process—causing inflammation to worsen and

setting the stage for degenerative disease. For example, researchers have found that people with low glutathione levels are more likely to suffer heart attacks. Therefore, to say the obvious: it’s so important to safeguard stores of this precious substance. Although experts advise consuming at least 250 mg of dietary glutathione a day, most Americans, with about 35 mg a day, fall short of the mark. You can increase your dietary glutathione intake with organic asparagus, avocado, spinach, okra, cantaloupe and citrus fruits. But, it’s also important to consume foods that are rich in cysteine, a primary building block of glutathione. Cruciferous vegetables—such as organic Brussels sprouts, cabbage and kale—can offer significant support, as well as organic, cage-free eggs.

Another way to support your glutathione levels is to consume undenatured, raw grass-fed whey protein, which is a great source of cysteine. Overall, eating an organic diet free of pesticides and

GMOs, drinking pure water and limiting exposure to pesticides can also help protect glutathione levels. Plus, certain supplements, including N-acetyl cysteine, alpha lipoic acid and the mineral selenium, can help to recycle glutathione, while silymarin has been shown to increase glutathione levels in the liver by 35 percent. When it comes to oral supplementation, some natural health experts question its value, maintaining that glutathione is broken down too quickly in the digestive tract to be of benefit. However, if you would like to try supplementation, look for an acetylated form of glutathione, which increases its bioavailability. Integrative physicians typically recommend from 200 to 500 mg of glutathione daily.

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Continued on Page Nineteen



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Glutathione - Continued from Page Eighteen

life depends on glutathione. Without it, your cells would disintegrate from unrestrained oxidation, your body would have little resistance to bacteria, viruses, and cancer, and your liver would shrivel up from the eventual accumulation of toxins. Visit GlutathionePharmacist.com to learn more! Please take care of your liver. It is crucial to your health and quality of life! I have been personally taking Acetyl-Glutathione for over 16 years and I have never felt more protected or better! I am here for you to answer your questions and help you achieve quality of life.*

To Your Health,

Susan

Susan Merenstein, Pharmacist and Owner
www.MAApgh.com |
www.LabNaturalsCBD.com |
www.GlutathionePharmacist.com

**References for this article can be made available upon request.*



Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance is available if you lost your job or income due to COVID-19.

covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us

How the application process works



1. The application is only available online. If you can't get online or need help filling it out, call ACTION-Housing at 412-248-0021. Drop-in centers with free WiFi and computers will also be open around the county. Some have scanners and staff to assist with technology.



2. You must create a username and password to get into the application. To do that, you'll need an email account. Don't have one? Sign up for free at bit.ly/gmailforrent or bit.ly/yahooforrent.



3. Write your username and password down somewhere only you can see it. You'll need it if you want to come back to the application to add documents, change your contact information or check the status of your application.



4. After you submit your application, it will move through five steps:

- Application Review
- Tenant Outreach - Someone will contact you if more information is needed.
- Eligibility Determination - If you meet eligibility criteria, your application moves to the next step. If not, you will receive a written denial which you can appeal.
- Landlord Outreach
- Payment Processing



You can see where your application is in this process at any time by logging back in.



5. We'll contact you about what happens next. The person who contacts you could be from ACTION-Housing, The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh or the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh. We're all working together so please answer their phone call or respond to their email.

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Beware the Ides of March!

By Vicar Silas Hasselbrook

The Ides of March occurs on March 15th. In Ancient Rome, it was a day when all debts from the past year had to be settled or else penalties would ensue. The Ides of March also became famous due to an assassination that occurred on this day in 44 BC. Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar depicts the scene and what led up to in an insightful and poetic manner. In that play, there is a seer that warns Julius Caesar that he will die before the Ides of March is over: "Beware the Ides of March," she said.

What happened was Julius Caesar went to address the Senate over issues that were plaguing the Roman Republic. It was there that some of the Senators who were not loyal to him stabbed him to death. This event caused a civil war within the Empire, one that Caesar Augustus quelled as he ascended as the sole authority over the Republic.

Thankfully, that is not how things happen in the United States Senate. Senators don't assassinate people with whom they disagree during meetings. At least not each other. Or with daggers. But what is interesting is how death can unite people. It united those who killed Julius Caesar to upend the Empire into war and unrest, to kill their leader. Death often brings together estranged family members for funerals. Death unites people from varying and often opposite ideologies to pay respects to the deceased. Just think of Sean Connery, Alex Trebek, Vincent Jackson, Larry King, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg just to name a few.

The fear of death also united the human race together during the COVID outbreak. Rarely can we agree on widespread changes to society, and rarely can we do so as quickly as was done with pandemic restrictions: quarantine, facemasks, social distancing, cancellation of school, sports, and events, limited occupancy, take-out only. For better or for worse, there is one consistent unifier among the human race, either in response or in result: death.

St. Paul writes, "the wages of sin is death" (6:23) in his letter to the Christian church in Rome. It makes sense that death would unify us, since we know that is the one thing that all of us are guaranteed to experience. And, as St. Paul makes clear, death is the result of sin. If you ever

doubt that something is wrong with you, just ask if you are able to die. If so, then you know that you are a sinful human. To be sinful is to not be right with God due to your inability to love and obey Him. To be sinful is to look to other things than God to find comfort in, to trust in other things than Him for peace. To be sinful is to be a corrupt person, created by God for great things, but unable to do them on your own. Sinful people sin by not loving others, not caring for others, or even caring for themselves. The 10 Commandments show us how to live a blessed and joyful life. But we are unable to do so and live in such a happy way. Neither can our neighbors, friends, and family. The result of our corruption is death. First the physical death, then the eternal death; that is, suffering and separation from God forever.

But there is a way that death saves. There is a way that death unites humanity together in joy, not fear and despair. God sent His dear Son to transform and redefine death so that there is something after it. The human life does not have to be book-ended with death. Life can have the final say. It is interesting how close the Ides of March, which mark the assassination of Julius Caesar, is to another assassination, one that happened on Good Friday. Jesus Christ, true God and man, was killed, not by being stabbed with daggers, but after His hands and feet were run through with the steel of nails. He was a King, like Julius Caesar, but only a crown of thorns adorned His head. No fine clothes or garments for Him—they were gambled off as He hung from the cross, bleeding out, naked. And then He died. For us.

But in the death of the God-man, something happened for all of the human race. He died the death, even the eternal death, we all deserved in that moment of time. He died and erased the penalty, the guilty sentence that hung over each of our heads for being sinners, by taking on the punishment Himself. It is fitting the Ides of March (when debts were paid) and the remembrance of Jesus' death (when our debts and trespasses to God were paid by Jesus) occur so closely. And when He rose to new life, He demonstrated that He is the champion over death, and will give those who believe in Him new life, a better life even here on earth, and the best life in heaven forever. It was in His death that Jesus reconciled, united, the world to

God and made peace between God and man. It is in the blood, suffering, and passion of Jesus that the world is united to God.

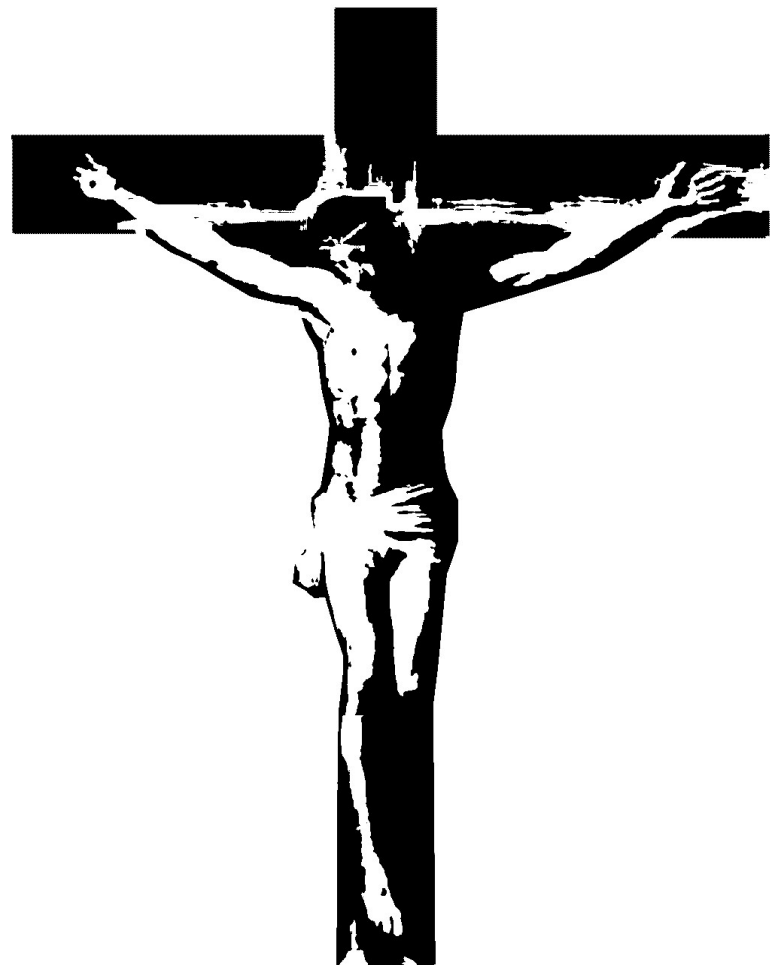
Everyone will die because everyone is a sinner, even Christians. But what happens after death is another story. That is why St. Paul continues and says to the Romans, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." God offers this free gift of life to all people. Those who reject the forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace that God offers in Jesus Christ will experience eternal and all-consuming death. To reject life is to choose death. But those who believe this free gift of God that is Christ Jesus' death to win life for us will inherit the eternal and all-encompassing life.

I might urge you to beware the Ides of March if I believed in Ancient Roman seers or was superstitious. But I don't. And I'm not. Instead, beware of your sin. It is my prayer that humans can be unified in moving from "beware" of sin (in themselves and in the world, in what they fail at and how the world hurts them), to "aware" of Jesus—aware that in His death is victory, and forgiveness of sin, aware of the beautiful life He offers to you. A free gift.

I invite you to come and hear of this gift in His Word that is prayed,

sung, and read at Holy Cross each week. I invite you to speak with me about participating in His life and death in Baptism. I invite you to speak with me about receiving His life and death in Communion as we partake of the very body and blood that died and rose for you. It is a free gift God offers to you.

We have a Sunday morning service at 9:30 followed by Bible Study, Wednesday Prayer services at 12:00 p.m. followed by Bible study, and Friday Stations of the Cross at noon. Additionally, we have morning prayer at 9:30 Tuesday-Saturday, and at 8:30 on Sunday. You can always stop in and speak with me, Vicar Silas Hasselbrook, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday about anything you'd like. Additionally, my email is silas.hasselbrook@ctsfw.edu. We also offer classes for youths and adults who are interested in joining Holy Cross, or learning more about the Christian faith. Our address is 5319 2nd Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA and our phone number is 412-521-0844. God bless you this month of April, as the light stays with us longer and beautiful spring weather approaches!



April Fool's Day: How it Started and Why We Celebrate

By Gerri Tipton

April first is a day some people look forward to. Whether you're the type that pull pranks on the daily or not at all, April first is a time many folks put on their thinking caps to come up with jokes or hoaxes to play on other people. The most common April Fool's prank I've seen is when a woman announces that she is pregnant and posts a sonogram picture online.

Regina Carter, a former neighbor of mine, said she'd played this pregnancy prank before and received a lot of text messages and comments on her Facebook post when she made the announcement. "Everyone was so happy for me and I got huge amount of text messages and phone calls," said Carter. I don't think people realized it was April Fool's Day because me and my husband were planning to start our family, and everyone was anxiously waiting for us to announce our baby news." She even went to find her sister's sonogram picture of her niece so that people would know it was a real sonogram. "I know that fake pregnancies are announced on April Fool's day and there are a ton of sonogram pictures you can find online. I found an old picture of my

sister's sonogram in my phone when she was pregnant with my niece the year before and used it. She didn't even suspect it was hers."

When the day was over, she told all her friends and family that it was a joke for April Fool's Day, but have you ever told someone the truth on April Fool's Day and no one believed you? Well, Carter did find out she was pregnant a year later and it happened on April Fool's Day, but this time no one believed her. "I went in for my yearly doctor's appointment and the nurse told me I was pregnant. I thought she was the one pranking me, so I laughed about it. She gave me an ultrasound and low and behold, there was a baby in there." When Carter told everyone about the news this time, no one bought it. "My mom said 'nice try Gina, you can't think of no other pranks? You did this to us last year.' I just started laughing and said, 'alright mom, you'll see.'" Carter said she waited to go to her mother's house after about two months so that her stomach grew and her mother could see she wasn't lying. "The minute I walked in the door she saw how big my stomach was and touched my belly. She said, 'you weren't kidding after all.' We still laugh about it to this day."

April Fool's Day has been celebrated

for many years in plenty of different countries. It's said that it originated in 1582 "when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar; and in the Julian calendar as the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1" (www.history.com). People didn't catch on to the news so quickly, or didn't realize that the start of the new year began on January 1. They continued to celebrate it during the last week of March to April 1, and later became known as "the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called 'April fools.'"

Pranks included "having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as a 'poisson d'avril, or 'April fish,' to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person." In Scotland, April Fool's day became a two-day event where the first day would be "hunting the gowk," also known as cuckoo bird, a symbol for a fool, in which people were sent to do bogus errands. Tallie Day, which was celebrated on the second day of fooling, involved pranks like pinning fake tails or 'kick me' signs on people's derrières (www.history.com).

A prank that me and my siblings used to love doing was changing the channel on the tv my dad was

watching. One of us would take the extra remote from the other bedroom, hide behind the hallway and peek our head around the corner to change the volume and the station. It took a while before my dad realized it was us but, before we got caught, we would hide in the bedroom or pretend we were sleeping. Then there's the old classic prank where you place a fart-sounding balloon or bubble wrap under someone's seat. Other good ones include covering a bar of soap in chocolate and giving it to someone who thinks it's an ice cream bar, or scraping the cream out of Oreo cookies and replacing it with toothpaste. We celebrate April Fool's Day because people love to laugh and have fun. Whatever prank you pull on April Fool's Day this year, make sure that it's safe and, of course, funny.

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Breakfast Sandwich Your choice of bread, meat, egg & cheese	3.50	Veggie Lover's Omelet 3 eggs, tomato, green peppers, onions & cheese	8.00

LUNCH

Salads Steak Salad, Chicken Salad, Chef Salad	12.00	Hoagie (8in) Turkey, Italian, Steak, Corn Beef, Fish Sandwich	10.00
Sicilian Style Pizza 8 cut with 1 topping	8.00	Loaded Fries Chicken, Steak, Shrimp	12.00

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MARCH EVENTS 03 | 2021

FRIDAY, APRIL 9TH
4:30-6:30PM

MUSICAL MASTERCLASS & PIZZA PARTY

An intimate workshop with music industry professionals for young adults who are experienced in music production.

Location: KRUNK Studio

SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH
3PM-6PM

PHOTOGRAPHY WALK & HAPPY HOUR

Join local photographers for an interactive workshop that takes you out into the neighbourhood to create original shots & more.

Location: The Woods House



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21ST
6PM-7PM

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM MEETING #5

Free meet-up to discuss feedback on our proposed summer programming.

Location: Virtual

SATURDAY, APRIL 24TH
12PM-4PM

EARTH DAY AT THE GARDEN

Head to Everybuddy's Garden to celebrate Earth Day with gardening workshops, arts & crafts, giveaways and so much more.

Location: Everybuddy's Garden

EVERYONE WELCOME, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED. | RSVP: HAZELWOODLOCAL.EVENTBRITE.COM

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). For years, Pittsburgh writer Eric Boyd wrote one or more six-word pieces a day, often by request. People wrote in with long, complicated prompts or real-life experiences they wanted to see condensed into six words. Sometimes these were philosophical or deeply personal, sometimes they were downright absurd.

Readers of The Homepage are now invited to participate!

Please email editor@hazelwoodinitiative.org with your poems, prompts, challenges, or real-world scenarios to be turned into a six-word story/poem.

Check out our latest prompt submissions and poems created by local writers!

This month's prompts: Write a 6-word poem about...

- The vibe of Hazelwood
- A vivid or memorable dream you'd like to revisit
- Life as a stray cat

Tree lined streets. Books and treats.

Miss you, our love was true.

I'm cute! A home in pursuit.

—*MaryAnn Majcher*

Great in past
revitalizing at last

Dreams escape me,
Recurring can be!

Savvy, resilient to core,
Babies galore!

—*Sgt. "J"*

Here are prompts for next month's issue! Please submit your work by April 15th

Write a 6-word poem about:

- An apology you may never receive.
- Sounds that emerge at dusk.
- Maintaining hope.



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