

# The Homepage

Serving the communities of

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



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August 2021

## As water bills rise, PWSA ramps up efforts to help low-income customers

By Public Source

Elizabeth Weatherspoon raises two children on a fixed income in the East Hills neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

She receives around \$800 per month in disability benefits for herself, another \$800 for one of her children and \$300 in supplemental nutrition assistance. This puts her just below the federal poverty line.

Any costs that go up by more than inflation can make her even poorer. In recent years, water bills have been going up by almost three times the rate of inflation across the country. And in Pittsburgh, the water and sewage rates have been increasing even faster, about four times faster than inflation since 2017.

The average customer in the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority [PWSA] service area spent about 2.7% of their income on water and sewage. The Environmental Pro-



tection Agency considers water and sewage bills above 4.5% to be unaffordable.

But in a third of the city's neighborhoods, at least one in every five customers was spending 10% or more of their income on water and sewage, according to PWSA's own affordability study in 2019.

Since then, PWSA's rates have continued to increase, making the bills even less affordable for low-income residents.

Weatherspoon recently had to spend a month in the hospital and fell behind on her water and sewage bill. She found herself more than \$700 in debt, so she called up PWSA in March to figure out what she could

do.

It's lucky she called when she did. PWSA's moratorium on water shutoffs during the COVID-19 pandemic has come to an end after more than a year, and the agency has already sent initial shutoff notices to 20% of the 7,787 customers who fell behind on their bills. More than twice as many customers are at risk of a shutoff as in a typical year.

Weatherspoon was referred to PWSA's customer assistance programs, which are available to anyone who earns 150% or less than the federal poverty level. That's \$32,940 for a family of three, and she was \$13,000 below that.

She's eligible for up to \$300 in immediate assistance from PWSA and

*Continued on Page Four*

## Davis Consulting Solutions CEO Graduates with Her PhD

Davis Consulting Solutions has been a prominent resource for when it comes to helping people find careers. Their vision is to "utilize community economic development, servant leadership, and management practices to build next-generation organizations and leaders" ([www.davisolutions.com](http://www.davisolutions.com)). The leader herself, Danielle Davis, PhD, just graduated with her advanced degree from Point Park University, and talks about the importance of getting her degree, and what it means for her business.



DD: *I obtained a Ph.D., Doctor of Philosophy degree in Community Engagement with a concentration in Community Economic Development, My theoretical framework included the empowerment, leadership, and management theories. It is titled "Faith-based Organizations Engaged in Community Economic Development." The link is available to purchase on our website <https://davisconsultsolutions.com/our-ceo/>*

GT: **How long did it take for you to complete your PhD program?**

DD: *It took me 4 ½ years to complete my Ph.D. program. I started in August 2015 and defended in January 2020.*

GT: **Why did you pursue your PhD?**

DD: *I was convinced to pursue a Ph.D. by one of my previous professors. He thought it incorporated aspects of my previous employment and education. This made sense as my degrees are in Community Ministry as well as Organizational Leadership.*

GT: **What was your motivation?**

DD: *My motivation was my family and friends, as well as how it could be used as an asset for my company, Davis Consulting Solutions.*

GT: **What type of work will you do or continue to do with your degree?**

DD: *As a Doctor of Philosophy in Community Engagement, I have continued to work in areas around Community Economic Develop-*

*Continued on Page Eight*

Gerri Tipton: **When did you graduate from Point Park?**

Danielle Davis: *I am glad to acknowledge that I graduated from Point Park University on May 2021, although I was supposed to graduate last year. Due to COVID it was delayed.*

GT: **What was your degree in?**

# The Homepage

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Greenfield · Hazelwood · Lincoln Place · Hays · New Homestead

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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 on Community-Led Development

By Hazelwood Initiative, Inc

At the heart of our organization’s mission is the idea that we are “Building a stronger Hazelwood through inclusive community development.” We began 22 years ago as a group of residents who volunteered to do community cleanups and events because they wanted this community to continue to be a beautiful place for people to live and to be a place where people truly felt loved by their neighbors—even if times were tough and jobs were scarce.

When the possibility of a new period of economic growth appeared on the horizon seven years ago, our board of residents and local business owners pushed the organization to fully step into the role of a community development corporation (CDC)—hiring professional staff with expertise in housing and finance—because they wanted to make sure that their neighbors were protected. They wanted to make sure that everyone who had stayed here with them, helping to make Greater Hazelwood a wonderful place to live during the rough years, was able to stay here and enjoy the benefits of their labor.

Our board, made up of residents and local business owners, wanted to make sure that their friends and family that lived here could continue to stay here—even when property values began to rise and new residents and businesses moved in. Hazelwood Initiative board members worked tirelessly with other community organizations, supported by their foundation partners, to create “Our Hands, Our Plan”—the Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan that was adopted by the City in 2019. As only the third comprehensive neighborhood plan to be created in the City of Pittsburgh, we are very proud to have been a part of the process!

And we are very proud to continue serving the neighborhood through the Covid crisis as we have secured grants to provide seniors with laptops, improved the greenway to help with air quality and stormwater, and paid out over \$100,000 in rent, mortgage, property tax, utilities, home repairs, and foods so that Greater Hazelwood residents could stay in the neighborhood despite the facing the “Great Recession”.

However, the work is not done. There are still many more development decisions that will face the community in future months. These decisions will impact where houses are built and where trees are cut down. They will impact how tall the buildings are and how much it will cost to live in them. They will impact what kind of people will live here in the future and what kinds of jobs they will have. **WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF THOSE DECISIONS!**

We want this to be the kind of community that you all feel welcome in. Where you can thrive and where you will be happy to raise your families for generations to come. We hope to see more of you at our monthly community meetings that are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. And we invite you to meet us in person on a hike. But, if you can’t, please reach out to us by email (ttaulton@hazelwoodinitiative.org) or on Facebook and let us know what you’d like to see here, or what you think of the news you learn in this paper. Much love to you all!

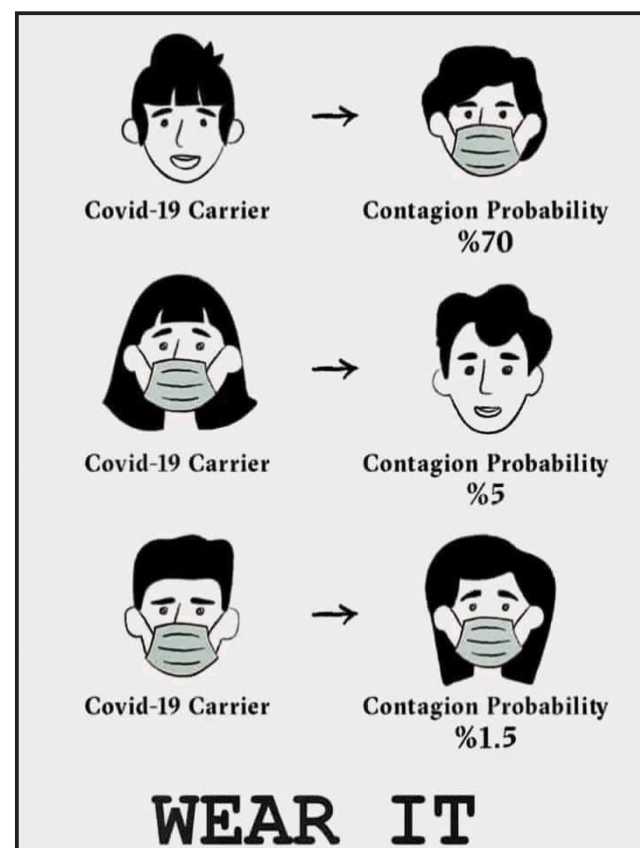
### Community Development

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- MONONGAHELA
- SALON
- BARBER
- PIZZA
- HOUSING
- THERUN
- HAZELWOOD
- GLENHAZEL
- TREES
- NEWHOMESTEAD
- BASEBALL
- COMMUNITY
- SHOPPING
- HIKING
- BASKETBALL
- HEALTH
- GREENWAY
- FRIENDS
- GARDEN
- MARKET
- PARK

# COVID-19: Greater Hazelwood Food Distribution

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

## Houses of Worship

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

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

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

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

**Keystone Church of Hazelwood**  
161 Hazelwood Avenue  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
412-521-3468

**Steel City Church**  
290 Bigelow Street  
Pittsburgh, 15207  
803-422-5855  
info@thesteelcitychurch.com  
www.thesteelcitychurch.com

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

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

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

## “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

\$36 off her monthly bill going forward. And she can pay off the money she's fallen behind on slowly, over years. As long as she is making payments, PWSA is now also forgiving an additional \$15 of her bill for every payment she makes.

Money has been so tight, Weatherspoon said, that she hasn't been able to take her 4-year-old to the kinds of theme parks that she took her 14-year-old to. "It's sad. My son is 4 years old and never been to Kenneywood, never been to Sandcastle, never been to Disney World."

Weatherspoon has been eligible for these discounts since her son was born four years ago. But she only learned about it when she fell behind over the winter.

She is not alone. PWSA has signed up 4,565 customers but estimates there are more than 21,000 additional customers who are eligible for the program but haven't signed up yet.

### A crushing burden

Water utilities across the country have struggled to give discounts to low-income customers.

One problem, according to Marcela Gonzalez Rivas, an assistant professor who studies water policy at the University of Pittsburgh, is that there isn't a national standard. Many water utilities don't provide any customer assistance at all, including some of the country's largest in Miami, Charlotte and Salt Lake City. And those that do are left to their own devices about how to implement them, Rivas said.

Federal programs to help low-income customers pay their gas and electric bills have existed for decades but the federal government only recently funded two temporary programs to help water customers hurt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Utilities often don't say how many customers are signed up, so it's difficult to compare, but they typically only sign up between 10% and 15% of their eligible customers, according to Sri Vedachalam, the lead author of a May Environmental Policy Institute study of 20 large water assistance programs.

He understands why water utilities don't publicize their numbers. "Who would? It's nothing to boast of," he said. "You're spending a lot of effort, asking...for budget support and then ending with somewhat dismal numbers."

PWSA's signup rate appears to be on the higher end, according to the study. But what counts as good isn't great: Only 18% of PWSA customers who are likely eligible for the as-

sistance have signed up.

State Rep. Ed Gainey, the victor of the Democratic primary for mayor in Pittsburgh, told PublicSource before his victory that he opposed further rate increases at PWSA that put an undue burden on low-income customers. "We can't talk about how do we protect the most vulnerable but we still continue to do rate hikes, knowing that that's the negative on them," Gainey said.

The next mayor will have the power to nominate new members to the PWSA board, which would have the power to limit future rate increases.

The Pennsylvania Utilities Commission held public hearings in July about PWSA's latest proposed rate increase of 19% over two years. During three afternoon sessions, the 18 people who testified were almost unanimous that the city's water infrastructure needed improvements, including to prepare for flooding from climate change. But they almost all testified that the utility needed to do more to protect the city's most vulnerable residents.

State Rep. Emily Kinkead, D-North Side, testified that the average customer's bill would have increased 130% between 2016 and 2023, if the latest increases are implemented. (PWSA says its average customer's bill increased 47% between 2017 and 2021). She said any rate increases should be put on hold until the agency signs up more low-income customers for its assistance program. "History has demonstrated that PWSA has not adequately made information about this program available to those in need," she said.

Will Pickering, who just finished his first full year as executive director at PWSA in June, told PublicSource that one of the lessons he learned when working at the water utility in Washington D.C., was that PWSA needed to get in front of the inevitable hardship low-income customers would face as rates rose.

PWSA has been signing up customers faster than other Pittsburgh-area water and sewage utilities over the last two years, such as ALCOSAN and Pennsylvania American Water. And it is taking additional steps to increase participation, including hiring three staff whose primary responsibility is to help more customers sign up.

Drop in the ocean  
PWSA's new "PGH20 Cares" team showed up at the Spartan Community Center in Hazelwood for the monthly flea market on a Saturday in July.

The team, which was announced in February, is one of PWSA's big-

gest investments to date directed at helping low-income customers learn about and sign up for assistance. Its three employees have begun attending community events and have plans to start knocking on doors.

The pandemic has forced water utilities across the country to innovate. The number of water customers in Louisville, Kentucky, at risk of shutoffs increased by 900% over the pandemic and most of them were people who had never missed a bill before. The utility started a program called "Drops of Kindness."

It launched a media blitz, targeted advertising on social media, text messages to customers and put fliers in churches and grocery stores of communities with a lot of need. The agency has given away around \$4.5 million to more than 13,000 customers and was cited by the US Water Alliance for its innovations.

One of the biggest factors in Louisville's success PWSA has already adopted: They don't require their customers to verify their incomes. Louisville's assistance grants were designed to help any customer facing hardship from the pandemic, not just low-income customers. PWSA's policy functions more like an honor system.

"With us, you can do it in 10 minutes over the phone, and you don't have to give us anything," said Sarah Veszneki, the PGH20 Cares team coordinator. "I think that once people realize how easy it is, they'll tell their friends."

PWSA also innovated during the pandemic, reaching out to more than 9,000 customers by phone who had fallen behind on their bills. They increased the program's visibility on its website and advertised on Google, increasing the number of pageviews from virtually none to more than 10,000 since March. They added fliers to food pantry boxes.

And they have now trained their entire customer service staff about their assistance programs, said Julie Quigley, director of customer service. So when someone like Weatherspoon calls for help, "We're not missing any of those contacts anymore," she said.

Outreach by the Cares team will be focused on areas where its most vulnerable customers live. Hazelwood isn't one of the neediest areas in the city, according to PWSA's 2019 study, but about one in five residents in its census tract are spending at least 7% of their incomes on water and sewage bills. Some census tracts in Glen Hazel, Marshall-Shadeland and the Southside Flats have more than 500 customers each who would potentially be eligible for their program.

Jennifer Kennedy, the executive director of Pittsburgh United, wants PWSA to make its assistance program more generous. Although PWSA gives a 100% discount on its service charge and first 1,000 gallons of water, the bill can still be expensive for some large families who use a lot of water, she said. In Philadelphia, by contrast, customers are only required to pay a certain percentage of their income on water and sewage.

Philadelphia's program is the only one of its kind in the country, according to Vedachalam at the Environmental Policy Institute. Unlike elsewhere, Philadelphia's water utility collects information about the income-level of customers, he said, though that can be costly. PWSA looked into the Philadelphia model but found that it would be too expensive to administer, a spokesperson emailed in a statement.

PWSA believes its current level of assistance is generous. Compared to the 20 large utilities studied by Vedachalam, the percentage discount offered by PWSA is among the most generous, trailing only Cleveland, St. Louis, Chicago, Philadelphia and Seattle.

One of the biggest challenges is signing up renters who don't pay their own water bill because it's included in their rent. If landlords co-sign on the water bill, the renters are eligible to receive discounts that landlords could pass onto them. And in some other states, renters can even receive a credit on the electric bill if they don't pay for water, Vedachalam said.

Pennsylvania could pass a law similar to one in California that requires utilities to share information about their customers, Pickering said. That would allow customers to sign up for assistance on their water, sewage, electric and gas bills all at once.

Gainey said he thinks these programs have to do more community outreach at events like local football games where low-income customers may be. He didn't want to give a target for what percentage of eligible customers need to be signed up for him to be more receptive to PWSA's rate increases.

"I don't want to say we should be at 50% or 80% capacity because, to me, that's lowering the ball," he

**PWSA** - Continued from Page Four

said. "Whether it's feasible or not, we want to be at 100% of capacity."

Even for PWSA, which is signing up more customers than other local water utilities, this means they have a long way to go.

The Cares team didn't have much luck attracting people to its booth during the first couple of hours at the Hazelwood flea market. Some customers may not want to share information about their income in public, they speculated. There was a food truck nearby giving away nachos and sandwiches.

"We can't compete with the free food," said Cares team analyst Rebecca Copney.

Pickering looks forward to talking with Pittsburgh's next mayor about the need for continued rate increases

to pay for infrastructure upgrades. He said it's only intuitive that more customers are going to become interested in their assistance program as their bills get larger.

"I would hold our program up to any across the country at this point," he said.

Oliver Morrison is PublicSource's environment and health reporter. He can be reached at [oliver@public-source.org](mailto:oliver@public-source.org) or on Twitter @ORMorrison.

Quinn Glabicki contributed reporting.

This story was fact-checked by Catherine Taipe.



AUGUST EVENTS

08 | 2021

**SATURDAY, AUG 14TH**

**FUN AT THE HAZELWOOD FLEA MARKET**

Join us at the Hazelwood Flea Market with delicious drinks, fun games, arts & crafts activities, and thrifted treasures in the neighborhood.  
**Location: 134 E Elizabeth St (Parking Lot)**

**FRIDAY, AUG 20TH, 7PM-10PM**

**MOVIE NIGHT ON THE LAWN**

Bring your blankets and picnics to Hazelwood Green Plaza for the second Movie Night of the summer with our partners at Row House Cinema.  
**Location: Hazelwood Green Plaza**

**SUNDAY, AUG 29TH, 10AM-1PM**

**SWEAT & SWAY FITNESS SESSION**

Enjoy a morning of fitness and movement from some of Pittsburgh's leading studios, instructors, and movement organizations for all ages.  
**Location: Hazelwood Green Plaza**

EVERYONE WELCOME, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED. | RSVP: [HAZELWOODLOCAL.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.hazelwoodlocal.com/eventbrite.com)

**Elizabeth Pharmacy**

Fresh fruits - Vegetables

Monday - Friday 9 am to 5pm

Saturdays 9 am to noon

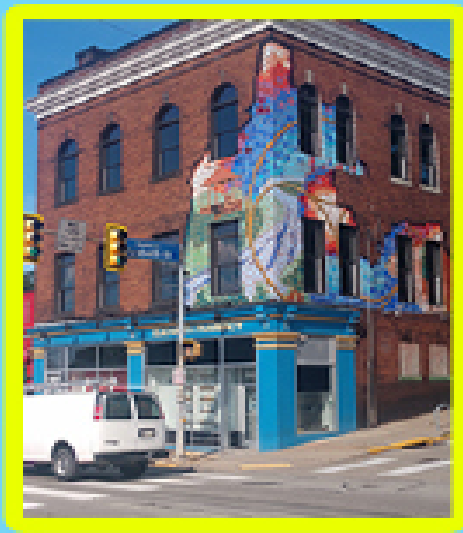
Closed on Sundays

5041 Second ave

412-421-0014

[www.elizabethpharmacyinc.com](http://www.elizabethpharmacyinc.com)

Food  
 Medicine  
 Clothes  
 Toys  
 Games  
 EBT  
 Check cashing



**GLADSTONE RESIDENCES**

Opportunity Contracting  
 MBE, WBE, DBE & Section 3  
 Business Opportunities



Hazelwood Initiative and The Community Builders, Inc. have partnered to redevelop the former Gladstone School located in Pittsburgh's Hazelwood neighborhood into mixed-income apartments. SOTA Construction is the general contractor for this historic, adaptive-reuse project which is expected to begin construction in fall 2021.

The Development Team is **actively seeking bids from Minority, Women, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MWDBE) and Section 3 businesses** for these and other trades:

|                        |                  |                            |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| PAINTING               | GYPCRETE         | HVAC SUPPLY & DISTRIBUTION | FRAMING SUPPLY   |
| ROUGH CARPENTRY        | FLOORING         | CONCRETE                   | MASONRY          |
| ELECTRICAL             | APPLIANCE SUPPLY | FINAL CLEANING             | PLUMBING SUPPLY  |
| SITE WORK & EXCAVATION | LANDSCAPING      | WINDOW TREATMENTS          | FRAMING/ DRYWALL |

**To register to obtain bid documents, interested contractors should contact:**

Chris Michaels - [cmichaels@sotaconstruction.com](mailto:cmichaels@sotaconstruction.com) or Dave Taylor - (412) 766-4630 x 101.  
 Pre-bid meeting and site visit dates will be noted in the bid documents.

**Need Assistance?** [www.bridgewaycapital.org/entrepreneurship-hub/bid](http://www.bridgewaycapital.org/entrepreneurship-hub/bid)  
 Bridgeway Capital provides contractor bidding & estimating assistance through the BID program for qualifying contractors, please contact Ms. Talpha Harris at [tharris@bridgewaycapital.org](mailto:tharris@bridgewaycapital.org) or at **412-201-2450 x115** for more information.

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

Lincoln Place • Gates Manor  
Hays • New Homestead



## Our Mission:

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Contact us:

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



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

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

Please make checks payable to the **31<sup>st</sup> Ward Community Action Group** and mail to 944 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  
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Saturday Vigil - 6:00 AM  
Sunday - 9:30 AM  
Confession: Saturdays after 8am 'til 9am

## Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 AM  
Monday - NA's 7:00 PM  
Tuesday - Senior Lunch & more 12:00-2:00 PM  
For more info call: 412-461-3377

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

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

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## A Love Affair of 55 Years

On August 13th Carl and Kris DiPietro will celebrate 55 years of marriage. They met on the 17th of July 1964, at St. Stephen's Hall (now known as The Spartan Center). Kris was involved with a local Dorothy Day group called the Young Christian Workers. It was while attending a celebration at the hall with the YCW that she would meet the love of her life. In fact, she told a friend that night that she had met the man she was going to marry—and she was right! That blessed evening was the beginning of the couple's long love affair and shared love of service to the Hazelwood community.

Kris grew up on Tipton Street and Chatsworth Avenue. Carl grew up in Beechview. However, his father grew up down in The Run section of Greenfield. So, the connection clicked right away!

Their wedding reception was held on August 13th, 1966, at the Hazelwood Moose Hall on

Chatsworth Avenue—right across the street from her home. The building later housed the YMCA. Currently owned by Hazelwood Initiative, who manages the community garden, the building will soon be the home of Three Rivers School. The couple loves to see how the site continues to be a community location, building special memories for new generations of residents.

The love affair continued when Kris and Carl made their first home together by renting an apartment on Chatsworth Avenue from a local family, Armando and Ida DiPietro (no relation). After the birth of their first child, Elizabeth—and expecting another child—they moved to Gladstone Street in Hazelwood, where they raised four children and were fortunate enough to have two other boys be part of their lives.

Kris and Carl are proud members of the Hazelwood community! Kris served on the board of

Hazelwood Initiative for nine years, including two as Board Chair. Carl was on the board of Fishes & Loaves Cooperative Ministries (FLCM) for three years and is also a longtime volunteer with the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Stephen's Parish. Like their marriage, their love affair with the Hazelwood community continues as they both volunteer for FLCM and participate in community meetings and activities. Kris summed up their life here in saying, "We have so many friends here we can think of no place else we would want to live."

Throughout their 55 years together, Carl and Kris cultivated a family life of commitment, integrity, learning, love and fun. They encouraged their five children to appreciate quality time with family and friends over good food and conversations, laughter and love because these are the moments that invigorate life and feed the soul. Their daughter, Eliz-

abeth, recalled that they were also given the skills to confront, cope and rise from adversity through repeating their family mantra "There is nothing you could do that would make me stop loving you." For their children, their parents' continued commitment to their family and community fills them "with awe and warmth."

Hazelwood Initiative celebrates their love for each other and our community this month. And their family asks that you also join them in prayer and thanksgiving for 55 years of this love affair. There is so much more to come!



# Davis Consulting

ment, urban planning, and talent management.

**GT: Are there any programs or more businesses you would like to create?**

DD: *There are always programs that I am interested in creating, but I primarily do so for our clients as a business or workforce solution. One of Davis Consulting Solutions' newest programs is called the "Next Generation of Equitable Solutions-SM a Blueprint to DEI Strategies". It is for organizations that are looking to spearhead diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.*

**GT: What does having your PhD mean to your business?**

DD: *Having my Ph.D. for Davis Consulting Solutions positions the company as an expert in Community Economic Development. It provided frameworks for the work that we have been doing for years.*

**GT: What advice would you give to people who want to pursue higher education, specifically a PhD?**

DD: *I would advise anyone pursuing higher education to do the research and determine if it is something that you can use for the majority of your life. Pick a topic that you are truly passionate about and that you can monetize on your work. Additionally, I would advise them to truly count the cost because I missed out on a lot of activities and family functions.*

**GT: Connected and Hazelwood Initiative's partnership will soon come to an end. How was the experience having this partnership?**

DD: *I believe the partnership was successful for the Connected program between Davis Consulting Solutions and Hazelwood Initiative. DCS, through our Community-2Work<sup>SM</sup> program, assisted a total of 286 individuals with obtaining employment and/or accessing workforce training and employment related support. Our team has assisted over 25 small businesses, entrepreneurs, and 10 start ups with support to stabilize and grow their company.*

**GT: How was the community's feedback with this partnership?**

- Continued from Front Page

DD: *The community appeared to support the partnership. I would have loved to have seen more participation at the events from community members.*

**GT: What are some things you liked about the partnership?**

DD: *What I loved about the partnership is that it allowed DCS to do what we do best, which is provide business and workforce solutions. We really did not have to change up many of our processes to fulfil the outcomes for Entrepreneurs, Small Businesses, and Job seekers. It also pushed me to finalize our Emerging Business program which is a key contributor to the entrepreneurial ecosystem's success and the need to identify diverse, equitable, and inclusive opportunities.*

**GT: Would you have another partnership similar to Connected?**

DD: *Absolutely, if it fits in with our company mission which is to deliver solutions and resources to address challenges in business, organizations, employment, and workforce diversity while empowering stakeholders to strengthen the economy of a region.*

**GT: What are your plans for the Community2Work program?**

DD: *The plan for the Community-2Work<sup>SM</sup> program is to expand into other regions and continue to highlight, build, and strengthen transferable skills of candidates to qualify them for employment.*

**GT: How do you continue to help the Hazelwood community?**

DD: *I continue to help the Hazelwood community by ensuring that whatever opportunities I can be made available to them. I also participate in several community groups, events, and activities relative to urban planning and development.*

**GT: What are your future plans for you and your business?**

DD: *There are many plans for myself and DCS. As a servant leader and diversity management strategist, I plan to continue to pursue*

*opportunities for speaking engagements, ministry opportunities, and that which allow us to build up people. DCS has grown tremendously but I would love to get a facility to which we can offer the services and programs in a greater capacity. So, those are my goals.*



## GREATER HAZELWOOD

### VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

#### TOPICS & SPEAKERS

- **City of Bridges Community Land Trust** - 4800 Block, between Hazelwood Ave. and Chatsworth Ave.
- **4800 Block South** - Greater Hazelwood Coalition Against Racial & Ethnic Disparities (GH-CARED)
- **Housing & Sustainability Updates** - Hazelwood Initiative
- **Community Announcements**

Meetings every 2nd  
Tuesday of the month!

Tuesday  
July 13th  
6pm - 8pm



Register in advance for this meeting:

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

CALL IN TO LISTEN: (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 853 9182 9343 Passcode: 796212



## Jada House to Host 7th Annual Bookbag Event

By: Gerri Tipton

Jada House is set to return with another event giving back to the community. This time, they will be having their 7th annual bookbag drive.

I had the pleasure of speaking to Jada House's director, Terri Shields, about the purpose of her bookbag drive. Her answer was simple: "I want to create unity and love in my community."

Her drive, combined with her kind and upbeat personality, is what keeps Hazelwood moving and helps its people get the resources they need.

"We ordered 300 bookbags; the goal is to have around 500. The bookbags will have supplies such as notebooks, pens, paper, pencils, calculators, etc. I wanted the kids to have supplies, that would give them a head start with starting school," Shields explained.

It is no surprise that, due to the pandemic, a lot of people have lost their jobs. Having the bookbag drive helps to alleviate the stress of parents trying to get their kids supplies: "Being that it is the pandemic, and they were out of school, I wanted to make sure the parents were not trying to scuffle up supplies for their kids, especially for those parents who were not working."

You can expect a lot of fun activities at this event, such as a face-painter, cartoonist, a DJ for dancing, a candy stand, and of course good food. There will even be a barber onsite for kids to get haircuts.

"The goal is to have lots of fun, fellowship, and everyone be happy while giving back to the community."

At first, getting started with a bookbag drive was a bit of a challenge. Shields didn't have sponsorship of—or her own 501C3 status as—a non-profit. But with the help

of some people in the community, friends, and family, she was able to get her first bookbag drive started 7 years ago.

"We have been doing this a long time, and at first started with nothing. It began with distributing 34 bookbags to give out to kids. I had women pitch in to buy supplies and pack up bags for me in our homes. We came a long way."

From then on, planning and organizing the bookbag drive became easier: "By the time we had our second book bag event, we had everything we needed that we didn't before. It was on from there."

Every year since the drive started, Shields has tried to have different activities for people to enjoy. "One year we had a horse, the next year it was exotic animals, and after that we kept looking for stuff for the following year. We try to bring it up a notch every time."

Last year, even during the pandemic,

Shields had a grab and go bookbag drive. Although the event was short and didn't have as many activities planned as in previous years, she still managed a way to support the local community. Over \$14,000 was used to disperse between churches, businesses in Hazelwood, and to buy other supplies to put in the bookbags—such as t-shirts, masks, books, and keychains. She also bought a lot of merchandise that was made by African Americans and gave them away.

Giving back while showing love and support to her community is just one way that Jada House works to achieve its mission of changing lives.

"I know I might not make a lot of people happy, but if I can catch one good fish then that's enough. This comes from my heart."

The bookbag drive will be on Saturday, August 21, from 2pm to 4 p.m., at Burgwin Field.

## Introducing the New Vicar at Holy Cross

By Vicar Benjamin Janssen

The writer to the Hebrews states, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb 13:8). Holy Cross Evangelical-Lutheran Chapel in Hazelwood lives out this confession as I was recently installed as their new vicar. I have some large shoes to fill as both of my predecessors, Timothy Kern and Silas Hasselbrook, were wonderful vicars who did amazing work at both Holy Cross and in the community of Hazelwood. While change is never easy, we pray that God may continue this good work throughout my vicarage year.

Since I am new, it seemed appropriate to briefly introduce myself

and my family. My name is Benjamin Janssen and I am the youngest of four children. My father is an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and serves at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Martinsville, IN. My mother is an RN at hospital in nearby Bloomington. In May of 2019, I graduated from Concordia University Chicago with a bachelor's degree in Business Not-For-Profit Management, along with two minors—one in Theology and another minor in Biblical Languages. While in Chicago I attended St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Forest Park, IL where I met my lovely wife, Elizabeth.

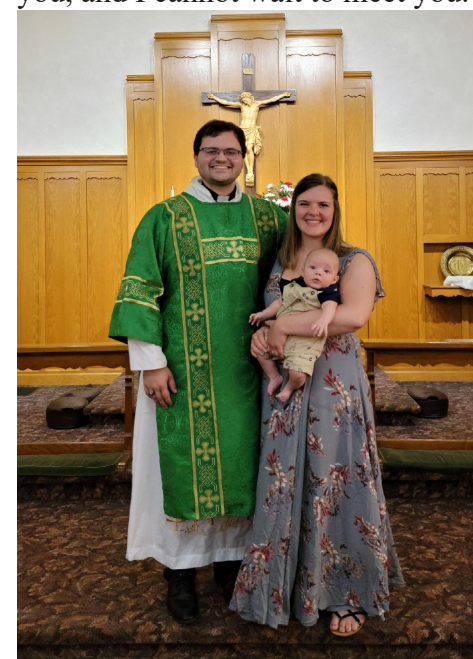
Elizabeth and I were married on Pentecost of 2019 and then moved

to Fort Wayne where I received my first two years of pastoral education at Concordia Theological Seminary. Elizabeth is an Occupational Therapist and worked in a public school district near Fort Wayne during my first two years of seminary. Then on May 12th, God blessed Elizabeth and I with the birth of our son Nathaniel John. He has been our joy these past few months and is loving Hazelwood so far. Just ask any member at Holy Cross, and they will let you know that we are really making ourselves at home in this beautiful part of Pittsburgh.

Our little family is so excited to spend this year with all of you in Hazelwood. This is an exciting time for us as we learn about ourselves, parenting, and Christ's church during my vicarage year. As this year begins, we agree with St. Paul who writes, "I thank God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." This was true when St. Paul first wrote these words, and it is true for you today. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took on human flesh

and died for your sins so that you may have eternal life through faith. Holy Cross Evangelical - Lutheran Chapel is your mission congregation in Hazelwood. We are here for you and we cannot wait to meet you.

So please don't be a stranger and come join us either Sunday mornings for worship (9:30am), every other Sunday afternoon for our community dinners (4:00pm), Our Stations of the Cross devotional on Fridays at noon or our Bible Studies every Wednesday at noon. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and thank you again for welcoming me and my family into your lovely city. Thank you, God bless you, and I cannot wait to meet you.



# What's Happening in Hazelwood

Hazelwood Health Fair: Credit: Tiffany Taulton



Vendors.



Tree Pittsburgh Staff & Tree Tenders.



Free Food.



Vendors.



Health Fair.



Clay Art.



Tom & Christine.



Landforce.



Duquesne University Community Health Workers.



PWSA Community Cares Team.



Jinnys Gifts.



Rachel, with Propel School, teaches healthy movement.



Desawn of Jinny's Gifts.



Balloon Animals with Hazelwood Initiative's Sarah.

# What's Happening in Hazelwood

Center of Life Final Jazz and Krunk Concert - Credit: Baylie McGrady



Wellness Hike with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy & Allegheny Goatscape - Credit: Tiffany Taulton



Gavin Deming.



# What's Happening in Hazelwood

## Movie Night at Hazelwood Green: "Into the Spiderverse"



Credit: Heather Bader



Credit: Heather Bader



Kids playing games. Credit: Tiffany Taulton



Credit: Tiffany Taulton



Credit: Tiffany Taulton



Credit: Heather Bader

## Wellness Bike Ride with Healthy Ride - Credit: Tiffany Taulton



Crossing the Hot Metal Bridge.



Riding Past Mill 19.



Silly Faces.



Three Rivers Heritage Trail.



Southside Boat Ramp.



Wellness Bike Ride.



Passing Technology Center.



Southside Boat Ramp.



Meeting at the Plaza.

# The Greater Hazelwood Coalition Against Racial and Ethnic Disparities

POORLAW (People of Origin Rightfully Loved and Wanted) has partnered with Praise Temple Church in order to cause a (spiritual revolution of the mind) we are committed to creating a community, economy, and government for, by, and of the people.

Everyone deserves a seat at the table. Inasmuch POORLAW and Praise Temple has discovered the absence of a vehicle to allow our residents to speak with ONE VOICE, we have established the Greater Hazelwood Coalition Against Racial and Ethnic Disparities (GH-CARED)

GH-CARED is a coalition aimed at bringing together every grassroots community-based organization, churches, agencies, businesses, and residents, in order to establish one voice addressing the racial and ethnic disparities facing the black, brown, and women of our community. This includes every aspect of our life, including but not limited to housing, workforce development, economic development, criminal and social justice.

Our mission is to invite the community into the conversation, listen, and amplify the voices of Greater Hazelwoodarians to create lasting change and influence the decisions being made that impact our community and residents. We fight alongside the people of Greater Hazelwood and empower the poor, working class, and the marginalized to stand up and speak out against racial inequality, economic inequality, and injustice.

It's time the planning and development of our community represent the priorities of its people and its residents for the purpose of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## PROBLEM

Greater Hazelwood has become a community that continues to prioritize brick and mortar projects over people and perpetuates economic and social inequity born from entrenched systemic racism

Our community has experienced rapid growth over the years but not all people have benefited. This

kind of growth creates racial and economic inequities that negatively impact Greater Hazelwood's vulnerable and working-class residents, particularly the black, brown, and women residents.

## Issues we face:

Systemic racism  
foundation-driven policy  
Political disenfranchisement  
Gentrification  
Lack of accountability  
Foundation and city interference in local solutions

## SOLUTION

Our focus is on informing our fellow Hazelwoodarians of the power that we all have to make a difference. We have an opportunity to align our workforce with the development of our community. We can build up our community, create high-quality jobs, affordable and quality housing, and equitable representation in all aspects of development in our community and ultimately change the course of Greater Hazelwood's future.

Greater Hazelwood is made up of community organizers, churches, neighborhood leaders, hard-working families, and individuals that all want one thing: for Greater Hazelwood to be better for everyone.

*Together, we shall speak in "ONE VOICE":*

*Engage the community in the process*

*Raise expectations*

*Advocate for racial and economic equity*

*Take on powerful special interests groups*

*Create innovative policies*

We have a responsibility to stand up for what is right, to go up against unjust laws, policies, and political powers.

WHEN WE SPEAK IN ONE VOICE, WE HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE CHANGE.

## OUR MISSION

To mobilize and empower our com-

munities to stand up and take action. Together we will create lasting change for the racial and economic good of all people in our community.

## OUR VISION

To make Greater Hazelwood an inspiring voice of the city as the best community to live, work and grow, a true reflection of its residents and a model of justice and equality.

We're engagers and we work to inspire a movement of involvement and action in our community to put people back in the center of the process.

## EQUITY

Our work is built from the perspective of those most impacted. Our Racial and economic equity lenses are the bedrock of how we organize.

## SPIRITUALITY

We are spiritually strong and we are grounded with morals and values which demonstrate the Love of our families, neighbors, and friends. We uplift careers and employers that place dignity in the workplace and encourage democracy.

## TRANSPARENCY

Creating transparency as a governmental norm empowers all people. We have got to make sure that our public entities work for the common good of all Greater Hazelwoodarians.

## EMPOWERMENT

There is strength when we join together for the common good. We fight to shift power to make sure our city is prioritizing its people and our dignity.

## COURAGE

We courageously challenge powerful individuals and ideas in our community and ask questions. We relentlessly fight for what is right!

## UNITY

Our aim is to form a Coalition between all the grassroots community-based organizations, churches agencies, businesses, and residents in the Greater Hazelwood community, in an effort to unify and speak with "ONE VOICE" We will address issues and concerns of all of our residents, with special attention given to the racial and ethnic disparities which affects the black, brown, and women residents. To join this movement, please contact Sandra CEO/Founder of POORLAW via email @ poorlaw@gmail.com or by phone at 412-670-8421, or Pastor Lutual M Love Sr @ lutuallove@gmail.com or by phone at 412-277-0113.

We meet monthly in person and via Zoom on the 4th Friday at Praise Temple church 5400 Glenwood Ave 15207. The Zoom link for these meetings is provided one day in advance to all members or by request.



# The Green Way

## The Coming of the Greens

Do not ye hear the bagpipes? Can't you feel it in the air? Marvelous new technologies are being invented and built. There is now a flying car, if you can afford the, I imagine, cool million or two bucks. There is old and new technology to re-green Earth, re-establish a diversity of plant and animal life, and degrade and biodegrade pollutants such as plastic, synthetic organic toxics, and heavy metal compounds that are harmful to humans.

You won't be able to feel that these changes are coming unless you're willing to accept that the old world IS dying.

We are in such severe turmoil that keeping balance seems quite a feat. Where is solid ground? A friend of mine, Rodd Willings, "Kentucky" once said, "I am secure in my insecurity." I remember my Mom saying, "The only thing sure is death and taxes." I have learned to have a great tolerance for ambiguity. Unexpected events, good and bad, seem

to be coming at light speed now.

We each can play our part in creating a better new day, but that will require quickly speeding up the already massive amount of change going on in our world.

When Mahatma Gandhi was asked what he thought of our American civilization, He replied "That would be nice."

The birth of this New Age we are a part of depends on whether each of us responds in fear or with a sense of enjoyment.

I, myself, look forward to getting to Everybody's Garden. It has become overgrown; this old geezer gets tired easy. It's easier for me to write and talk about the nowadays than to work in it, so here's some writing:

My favorite plant is lambsquarters, which has more protein than meat and makes a delicious broth when cooked. It can grow as tall as a small

Christmas tree and can also be eaten raw. The apple trees are laden with fruit not yet ripened. The peaches are not yet ripe either. There is parsley, rosemary, thyme, garlic, tomatoes, rhubarb, chives, fennel, asparagus, dwarf kale, collards, mulberry trees, catnip, strawberries, potatoes, arugula, radishes, perilla, sunchoke, horseradish, raspberries, borage, two pawpaw trees, stinging nettle, purple iris, milkweed, comfrey, sage, rose bushes, rose-of-sharon bushes, 2 apricot trees that have never produced much, purslane, and probably a couple of others I can't think of right now.

The soil at Everybody's Garden is rich, and some students at Pitt are going to come to measure its nutrient content. Having a variety of many little critters competing with each other helps keep outbreaks of disease down.

I'm trying to see my aging in the same positive way as I'm trying to convince others that the passing of

the old age of life on Earth is okay. It's clear to many that we're not going to be driving vehicles with gas much longer. Either we stop combustion processes in motor vehicles and factories or we go extinct. It's that simple.


"Treasure your mistakes"  
~Terence McKenna

**Jim McCue (St. Jim the Composter)**  
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- The team will assist in placing graduates into construction jobs at Gladstone School upon completion.

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Plus:

Fresh Salad & Fruit Salad

Plus Lunch Options:

ALs:

Chicken Salad, Egg Salad, Tuna Salad, Potato Salad, Tuna Salad, & Hot Sausage



# PWSA Pushes Ahead on Four Mile Run Stormwater Project Without Permit

By: Public Source

Despite receiving a Technical Deficiency Letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) in response to their dual permit application for the problematic Mon-Oakland Connector (MOC) shuttle road and Four Mile Run Stormwater Project, PWSA shows no sign of reconsidering its plans. The current stormwater project is inadequate to address the flooding issues, in part because it was designed around the MOC. On top of that, existing flood protection benchmarks do not account for worsening conditions caused by overdevelopment and climate change.

**May 27:** The PA DEP sent the Technical Deficiency Letter. Its engineering and environmental comments contained numerous references to the MOC and requests for clarification on its impacts. Here is a small sampling of problems from the 8-page letter.

Engineering comment 5d.: *Was the area as a result of the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure proposed trail and road incorporated into the flood analysis inundation limits study for proposed conditions. Provide evidence that the impervious area will not contribute additional flow increasing water surface elevations detailed in Figure 01 & Figure 02 of Project 2018-GI-102-0.*

Environmental comment 29: *Since this application only includes a section of DOMI's Mon-Oakland Mobility Project, identify and describe, to the extent possible, any and all potential impacts to aquatic resources, including watercourses, floodways, floodplains and bodies of water, from the overall Mon-Oakland Mobility Project. Please note that based on your response to this item, that a Comprehensive Environmental Assessment may be requested.*

The letter stated that PWSA had 60 days to respond to these comments, or the application would be considered withdrawn. The deadline was July 27.



**May 28:** At the monthly PWSA board meeting Ziggy Edwards of The Run urged the PWSA to create a model for the stormwater project that does not include the MOC. She also asked for a report PWSA commissioned from ms consultants, inc. that provides great detail on the Four Mile Run watershed and was funded with ratepayer dollars.

**June 3:** PWSA chief of project management Alex Sciulli denied Ms. Edwards' request for the report. Regarding the dual permit application, Mr. Sciulli said he "asked staff to prepare a response to the PA DEP letter and to provide additional clarification regarding the stormwater impact of the proposed MOC, including the specifics of the ms consultants report and previous modeling." He added, "At the appropriate time, we will be happy to share and discuss our response to your inquiries."

Mr. Sciulli did not clarify how PWSA would be able to address in

two months the fundamental shortcomings identified by PA DEP.

**June 13:** Intense storms caused flash flooding in The Run that totaled several cars, damaged a garage, and caused sewage backups in basements.

**June 25:** At the monthly PWSA board meeting, several Run residents spoke and/or submitted statements regarding the June 13 flood. Ms. Edwards again implored the PWSA to come up with a plan to address flooding that is not designed around and hindered by the MOC.

"We need answers on how much better PWSA could address the combined sewer overflows without [the road]. These answers have life-or-death importance to The Run," she said.

Ray Gerard of lower Greenfield recounted the flood's aftermath in his statement. "The City again neglect-

ed to show up and remove inches of leftover fecal matter on the streets, sidewalks and limited community green space. The neighborhood literally smelled like [S#!\*] for days. It's understood that there are other areas of the city that suffered damage and flooding, but that was runoff storm-water, not raw sewage... Residents and their children are forced to breathe this toxic air in for days. Our local officials continue to ignore, at great risk, the lives and health of Run residents."

**July 9:** PWSA senior group manager Tony Igwe sent a letter to Run residents informing them that although "the plans for the stormwater project are being reviewed by the [PA DEP] and we cannot move forward with construction [on the stormwater project] until a permit is issued ... People's Natural Gas (PNG) will begin construction to replace existing gas lines along Saline Street, Alexis Street, Four Mile Run Road, and Boundary Street." The letter included a tiny image of a map with illegible text.

Stay tuned for updates on PWSA's response to the Technical Deficiency Letter and whether PNG's planned construction lacks necessary permits at <https://www.junctioncoalition.org/2021/07/17/pwsa-pushes-ahead-on-four-mile-run-stormwater-project-without-permit>.

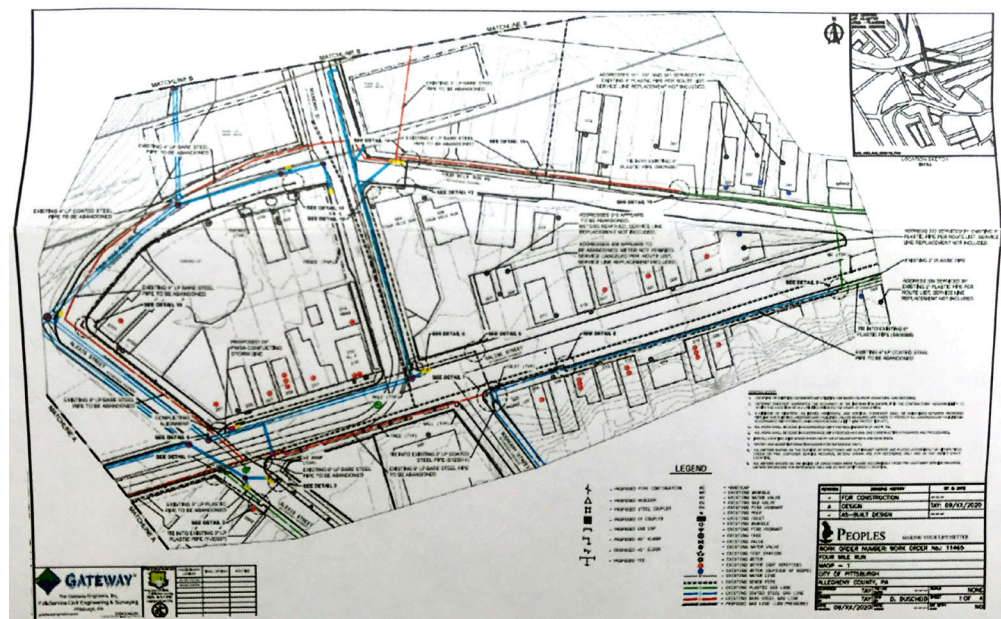


Image is exact size.



## Landscaping On A Budget: 4 Ways to Cut Costs

By Julie & Ted Block

Although we all daydream about one day moving into the perfect home, research has found that moving is the most stressful life event most people deal with—even worse than divorce or going through a breakup!

As much as we love the quaint homes and quiet streets of Hazelwood and Greenfield, these neighborhoods were designed to be residential, not necessarily to provide every single resource you might need on the day of a move.

With that in mind, we're offering some of our insights as real estate agents. We've listed out where to find some of the most important resources for your moving day! (We recommend saving this article if you plan on moving in the future!) Simplifying Your Move

**1. How to block off parking.** If you'd like to reserve parking spots to simplify your move, reach out to the Department of Public Works.

As long as you're staying inside the city, they can ensure you get the parking you need.

Here's their contact information:

- Phone: 412-255-8850
- Address: 611 2nd Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**2. Where to find self storage.** If you need a little extra space, you have plenty of options in South Side, just over the Hot Metal Bridge. There, you'll find businesses like Extra Space Storage, Keep Self Storage, and STORExpress Self Storage.

**3. Where to rent a van or box truck.** If you need a moving truck, your best bet may be the nearest U-Haul location. You'll find a few in Edgewood (2531 Greensburg Pike—inside Exxon), Larimer (6921 Fifth Avenue—inside Compass Self Storage), and Knoxville (55 E Amanda Avenue—inside Nutz & Boltz).

**4. Where to find boxes.** Boxes are critical on your moving day! And

although you can always buy boxes (Home Depot and Lowe's are good starting points), you can find boxes for free in many locations!

A few places to start your search:

- Costco in the Waterfront
- Aldi in Homewood
- The shops along Second Avenue in Hazelwood (Pop in and ask if they have any set aside for recycling!)

**5. Where to find a quick bite to eat.** Moving certainly works up an appetite, but nobody wants to cook after a long day of hauling boxes! If you're still inside the Hazelwood-Greenfield area after you've unloaded the truck, consider visiting one of these neighborhood favorites:

- **Hough's Taproom & Brewpub** - We like to stop here for their beer selection around the holidays, but they also have a great selection of pub food that's perfect to celebrate your move!
- **Italian Village Pizza** - Located on Hazelwood's Second Av-

enue, Italian Village Pizza is especially good if you have picky eaters at the end of the day—everyone loves pizza and hoagies!

- **C&D's Kitchen** - They make one of our favorite burgers, and an order of fries will feed a small army! If your friends are helping you move, this is a great treat to offer at the end of a long day.
- **Dylamato's Market** - Whether you need to fill your pantry with staple goods or just want a fresh sandwich for lunch, Dylamato's in Hazelwood is a great place to stop.

Have Any Other Moving Tips?

If you have any other moving tips, we'd love to hear from you! Feel free to send us an email at [theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com](mailto:theblocks@blocksintheburgh.com).

Cheers,

Julie & Ted Block

## Happy National Fajita Day

A recipe you and your family will enjoy.

By: Gerri Tipton

National fajita day is celebrated August 18th this year. Of course, you can go out to a restaurant that serves good fajitas, but there's nothing like making them at home! The fajita is made with a few simple ingredients: your choice of protein, veggies, and mild salsa for spice. This meal can be done in as little as 30 minutes. Try this recipe today for a nice change to your dinner menu.

### Ingredients

1 pack of chicken breast (or whatever protein you like)  
 3 peppers (one yellow, one green, and one red- different colors make it festive)  
 1 whole onion (sliced)  
 1 pack of soft shells (flour or corn)  
 1 cup of cheese  
 ½ cup of chicken broth (optional)  
 ½ of lime (optional)  
 Any sauce for topping/dipping your fajitas (I recommend salsa)  
 Cilantro (optional)

**Fajita Seasoning** (1/4th cup of each)

Onion Powder  
 Garlic powder  
 Cayenne pepper  
 Chilli Powder  
 Paprika  
 Ground Cumin  
 Oregano  
 Salt  
 Pepper

### Cooking Items

Nonstick skillet  
 Half of cup of olive oil (add more if needed as you are cooking)  
 Knife  
 Cutting board  
 3 cooking bowls (to place your ingredients inside 2 medium size, 1 small for seasoning)  
 1 cookie sheet, or any pan for your fajitas  
 A set of prongs or fork for scooping  
 1 plate for assembling the fajitas

**Directions**  
 Heat up your skillet with the olive oil to a medium temperature. While the pan is heating up, cut your protein into strips. Then place

inside one of the bowls.

Mix all your seasonings together in a small bowl or container. Sprinkle over your protein. Mix thoroughly to make sure seasoning is evenly distributed on each side.

Chop up your peppers and onions into strips, then place in the other cooking bowl.

Once your pan is heated, place your protein in the skillet FIRST. You don't want to add in the veggies until after your protein is halfway cooked, because they will cook faster than the protein. You don't want them to burn.

Cook your protein on each side for about 5-7 mins. Once you flip to the other side, add your veggies.

Once your veggies begin to cook after flipping them, you can add your chicken broth. This is just for extra flavor, but it is optional. Turn your fire down low and let simmer for about 5 mins.

While simmering, preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Place your shells on the cookie sheet and cook for about 5 mins. When finished, carefully pull out the pan, and let cool for a few minutes. Turn off the fire from your fajita

mixture. If you want the juices to thicken up, you can let the mixture sit for a few minutes. When you're ready to assemble, take one fajita and scoop up your meat and veggies and place inside the fajita. This might be easier if you want to scoop them and put them on a plate, or a taco holder stand (if you have one)- but using your hands will be fine. Squeeze lime juice over top of the fajitas. Top off with some cheese, cilantro and your choice of salsa. Last but not least, enjoy!



Source: [cookingclassy.com](http://cookingclassy.com)

# We Are All in this Together

## Op-Ed

*Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within the article below are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, viewpoints or beliefs of The Homepage, Hazelwood Initiative, or its board of directors.*

## By Homer Craig

I intend for this letter to make you think about things you think you know. If, after reading it, you see them in a different light, then it has done its job!

Black Lives Matter is a slogan, and generally refers to unarmed Black men, women, and children unjustly killed by authorities or pseudo-authorities. However, the mistreatment and labor theft of kidnapped Africans by the privileged plantation planter class represents only a portion of our historical national racial bias.

Racial bias has also been shown against our indigenous sisters and brothers who suffered governmental genocide long before the Holocaust, though they, too, remained

patriotic and were instrumental (Navajo Code Talkers) in American WWII victory.

Racial bias has also been shown against our Mexican and other South American brothers and sisters who continue to be referred to in contemptuous terms, yet descendants of the privileged plantation planter class mentality find no problem exploiting their agricultural expertise. Racial bias has also been shown against our Asian and Indian brothers and sisters whose labor and intellectual abilities, along with their land were and are still exploited by descendants of the privileged pillaging plantation planter class. I consider "Indian" reservations to be concentration (even death camps) long before Auschwitz and Dachau existed!

Gender bias has been shown even against our white sisters who still do not have pay equity because of descendants of the privileged plantation planter class. If you doubt the veracity of this statement, then explain why the Fourteenth Amendment precedes the Nineteenth Amendment by one hundred years!

Lastly, our economically least privileged white brothers should also

understand how racial bias affects them. We are all in this together. We are part of the same zebra. During slavery, the privileged plantation planter class found it more beneficial to steal a kidnapped African's labor than to pay a poor white man living wages. Unbelievably, we are still in the same boat!

Make America Great Again (MAGA) is a slogan, too, but hardly original! It reminds me of slogans promulgated by A. Schickleguber and Joseph Goebbels in the 1930s. A. Schickleguber's statement, an echo of Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov's shared a common belief; "A lie told often enough becomes the truth." (See editor's note.)

In case you did not know it, America has been great since it shed the shackles of colonialism and stepped into the sunshine of self-determination!

How often have we heard the lie Barack Obama is not a US citizen? Was the pandemic a hoax? Did self-serving political mendacity needlessly cost hundreds of thousands of American lives? Was there no insurrection?

If one lie is known, be sure many

more are hidden. Remember who told us these lies...consistently. Certain political "leaders" continue imploring us not to believe our own eyes!

In conclusion, I hope this article helps improve your quality of life. Remember many gave their lives to give the gift of the vote. Please do not waste this blood gift.

**Editor's Note:** *A. Schickleguber was the father of Adolf Hitler. As an illegitimate child, he did not take his father's surname. He later asked to take the name of his stepfather, Johann Georg Hiedler, but the spelling was inexplicably changed to "Hitler." Joseph Goebbels was the minister of propaganda for the Third Reich under Adolf Hitler. Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov is the birth name of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet Union.*



## REP IS COMING TO HAZELWOOD!

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Engages youth and adult residents in **Community Conversations** about ways they can influence equitable development.



Empowers residents to develop an **Equitable Development Playbook** to influence positive neighborhood change, supporting local plans like the Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan.



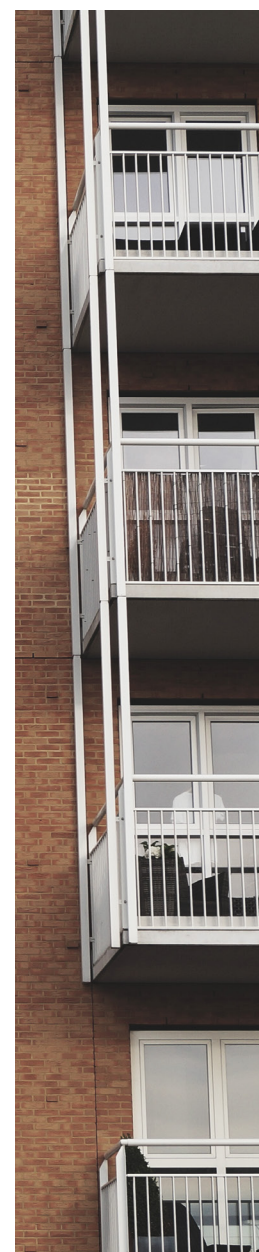
**How can you get involved now?**  
REP needs community members to shape and inform the project by joining a **Community Advisory Board (CAB)**.

**The CAB will meet for about 1 hour, 1-2 times a month throughout the project, and CAB members will receive \$20 per meeting.**

### IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, CONTACT:

KATIE HOLLER:  
KMD196@PITT.EDU  
MARY OHMER:  
MLO51@PITT.EDU  
SHANNAH THARP-GILLIAM:  
SGILLIAM@HCV.ORG

TIFFANY TAULTON:  
TTAULTON@HAZELWOODINITIATIVE.ORG;  
412-392-7427  
DANIELLE.CHAYKOWSKY@  
CENTEROFLIFE.NET  
KIYOMI.KNOX@CENTEROFLIFE.NET.



**DON'T GET EVICTED! GET HELP!**

## EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP)

<https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us/>

**Rental and utility assistance** is now available for those who have suffered a loss of income, OR increased expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Ex: higher utility bills because you are home all day>)

**Up to 12 months of late rent payments and 3 months of future payments can be made--**typically within 2 weeks of application. You must apply online.

*If you don't have a computer or mobile device, you can go to a drop-in center or make an appointment for a phone intake (slightly slower) by calling Action Housing at (412) 248-0021.*

**You do not need to be a citizen.** Interpretation services available. A social security number is not required.

### Documents needed:

- W-2 or 1040 or 1099 tax forms, paystubs
- SSI or Unemployment determination letter
- Lease agreement signed by landlord and tenant
- Utility bills and statement of back-owed rent

For more neighborhood housing and event info visit <https://hazelwoodinitiative.org> or follow us on Facebook. Phone: (412) 421-7234.

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- Wound healing- This is not a sterile product-so it is applied around wounds. It can be applied to bedsores, that HAVE NOT BROKEN THE SKIN

- Skin-Glutathione stimulates and rebuilds cartilage, increases connective tissue, Great for under eye bags, lids of eyes. Moisturizes dry, flaky or damaged skin.

- Can be used as an antiperspirant and deodorant, apply a small amount under arm after bathing or showering once daily. Antiperspirants and deodorants are some of the most toxic substances you can put on your body.

- Psoriasis/Eczema/Rosacea, Age Spots, Hyper Pigmented Skin, Actinic Keratosis, Sunburn, Hemorrhoids Cold sores on the lips, resolves the herpes zoster infection

- Heart-Atrial fibrillation-complete resolution in chronic atrial fibrillation

- Eyes-improved night vision, arrests macular degeneration, improves cataracts (applied under eyes), improved glaucoma

- Ears-improved hearing in some cases (anti-inflammatory effect), lessening of dizziness in some vertigo cases.

- Blood-Iron deficient anemia resolved, improved glutathione levels in RBC's

- Neuropathic pain or Diabetic Neuropathy as the circulation of blood is improved by Glutathione-attenuated or totally removed pain from feet and legs

- Post Herpetic pain relieved-if applied early enough, it also resolves Herpes Zoster infection. (Shingles)

- Lungs-Asthma, COPD, Emphysema with success

- Brain injury-help in healing through anti-inflammatory effects

- Parkinson's Disease (tremors subsided in several cases after 3 months of use)

- ADHD, Alzheimer's, Autism, ALS, Fibromyalgia, Carpal Tunnel syndrome, Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Arthritis-Topical Glutathione improves symptoms greatly.

- Sports medicine- greater endurance, faster recovery, better oxygenation of tissue, brain trauma due

to injury, increased performance.


- Topical Glutathione Palmitate can help with the 5% of people who get Tendon Rupture Syndrome or nerve damage from drugs like Levaquin or Cipro(fluoroquinolones)-relieves pain and inflammation of the tendon.

- Adrenal health-helps restore adrenal function from burnout and important in energy production in the cells.

**We recommend the following products (available on [GlutathionePharmacist.com](http://GlutathionePharmacist.com)):**

*Use discount code GSH10 to save 10%!*

Acetyl-Glutathione 150mg / Acetyl Glutathione 300mg  
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Susan Merenstein RPh/Owner  
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- Increased micro-circulation in the tissues leading to better oxygenation of tissues.

- Erectile dysfunction - glutathione stimulates nitric oxide and increases blood flow. May be used in women to stimulate clitoral blood flow. This may not be an overnight effect; may need to use oral Glutathione for 4-5 months first.

- Powerful antiviral and anti-fungal, and anti-inflammatory.

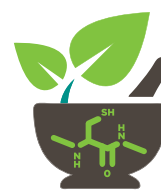
- Liver toxicity- Hepatitis due to chemicals, alcohol, or viral infection

- Any condition that one would prescribe a steroid as the anti-inflammatory glutathione is superior to any steroid- with no side effects. Applied topically to Tendinitis, Arthritis, JOINTS, or other inflammatory condition, it will decrease pain and inflammation.

- Faster healing in knee, hip replacement surgery.

- Immune function-Increased levels of Natural Killer cells, Antiviral for HIV, Hepatitis C, and all Herpes infections, Epstein Barr, Chronic Fatigue. Use as an adjunct in cancer therapy.

- Warts- remove the pain of Planters warts quickly, can be used for HPV warts.



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- A.M.

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# Reader Call: The Six Word Challenge

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

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

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

- A severe storm
- Post-pandemic travel plans
- Your favorite summer holiday

#### A severe storm

After the deluge, we're seeking refuge.

#### Post-pandemic travel plans

Time to cruise, it's long overdue.

#### Your favorite summer holiday

Memorial Day starts the summer play.

By MaryAnn Majcher

#### A severe storm:

Thunder, lightning, rain;  
Deluged window pane!

#### Post-pandemic travel plans:

Loosed at last;  
Travel will pass!

#### Your favorite summer holiday:

Respects to pay;  
Celebrate Memorial Day!!

By Sgt "J"

#### A severe storm

Smell of lightening. Can be frightening.

#### Post-pandemic travel plans

Family reconnect. Life what we expect.

#### Your favorite summer holiday

Honoring family. Visiting graves.  
Memorial Day

By: Miss Bea

#### A severe storm

"Behold, the majestic fury of  
Gaia!"

Rebecca C.

### Word Search Key



4944 SECOND AVENUE,  
PITTSBURGH, PA, 15207

# ELEVATIONZ

MoNae's Hair Studio

Killa Kutz (Barbershop)

The Glam Room (lashes and brows)

New 2 You (resale shop)

and

the Diamond Room (event room)

## C & D'S KITCHEN

### BREAKFAST

The Willy Slam 8.00  
*2 eggs, 2 strips of bacon, 2 sausage patties, toast, breakfast potato, 2 pancakes or 1 waffle*

Breakfast Sandwich 3.50  
*Your choice of bread, meat, egg & cheese*

Meat Lover's Omelet 9.00  
*3 eggs, sausage, bacon, ham, and cheese*

Veggie Lover's Omelet 8.00  
*3 eggs, tomato, green peppers, onions & cheese*

### LUNCH

Salads 12.00  
*Steak Salad, Chicken Salad, Chef Salad*

Sicilian Style Pizza 8.00  
*8 cut with 1 topping*

Hoagie ( 8in) 10.00  
*Turkey, Italian, Steak, Corn Beef, Fish Sandwich*

Loaded Fries 12.00  
*Chicken, Steak, Shrimp*

### DINNER

\*\*ALL DINNERS COME W/ 2 SIDES, CORN MUFFINS

#### CHICKEN

5 Wings 12.00

5 Breast & 1 Wing 12.00

#### FISH

Large Cod 12.00

6 Pieces of Fried Shrimp 12.00

Fish & Grits 8.00

### SIDES ( \$4 )

Mixed Greens  
Fried Cabbage  
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Candied Yams  
Fresh-Cut Fries  
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Baked Beans  
Coleslaw  
Potato Salad

Linguini Salad  
Side Salad 2.50



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# SUMMER READING

[#pghreadsfive](#)

Did you know that reading just five books over summer vacation helps students return to school ready to learn? Reading and keeping kids and teens engaged has never been more important. This summer, we're asking the community to band together to ensure that all Pittsburgh youth read five.

This summer, help Pittsburgh kids and teens [read five!](#)  
Summer Reading officially kicks off on [June 13, 2021](#)

All Locations are Open - Check [carnegielibrary.org](#) for days and times  
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## Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania is hiring a Part-Time Community Health Worker from Hazelwood!

Looking for someone to assist at the Hazelwood youth drop-in center, create a welcoming, youth-friendly environment, help direct youth and other community members to resources at the center, answer questions about sexual health and Planned Parenthood services, and teach a comprehensive sex ed curricula or facilitate other programming.

\$15/hour, 28 hours/week and benefits  
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Brendan McKenzie  
412-427-9211



Eleazer Gorenstein  
732-261-3373



Michael Satira  
412-961-2897



Tatjana Douglas  
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Berni Bishop Pirollo  
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