



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Welcoming Week 2016 to be Celebrated in Allegheny County

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald today designated September 16-25, 2016 as “Welcoming Week” in Allegheny County and announced the calendar of events for the celebrations. The county has been a Welcoming America County since May of 2013 and works with other municipalities and counties to create more welcoming, immigrant-friendly environments.

“I am very proud that Allegheny County has been part of the Welcoming America effort for so long, and that it is so well-respected in this region and country,” said Fitzgerald. “The ultimate goal is to create a welcoming atmosphere – community by community – in which immigrants are more likely to integrate into the social fabric of their adopted hometowns. We’re very blessed to have so many individuals and communities in this county who have also committed to being a welcoming community.”

The county continues to participate in the Welcoming America effort in a variety of ways. Since 2007, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services has sought to ensure that its services were culturally competent and accessible to immigrants and internationals. Through its Immigrant and International Advisory Council, the county receives advice on issues of concern to immigrant and international communities and on ways to improve the accessibility and cultural competence of services. Allegheny County is also an active member of Vibrant Pittsburgh and has been a partner in efforts such as Hola Pittsburgh! and Welcoming Pittsburgh.

A number of municipalities – including Castle Shannon Borough and Whitehall Borough – will be offering Welcoming Week proclamations as part of their regular business meetings this month. The full schedule for Welcoming Week, which is subject to change, follows:

FRIDAY, September 16, 2016	
<p>Mobilizing Churches in Refugee Care and Ministry <i>A one-day conference to learn more about refugee resettlement and services: hear from refugees about how churches can help, participate in a Refugee Camp & Resettlement Simulation, and hear from keynote speaker H.E. Ernest Ndabashinze, an ambassador to the U.S.</i></p> <p><i>For more information, visit their website and register to attend</i></p> <p><i>Allegheny Center Alliance Church 250 East Ohio Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212</i></p>	9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
MONDAY, September 19, 2016	
<p>Around the World in Pittsburgh: Documentary Short Premiere <i>Six high school students bring us to the places in Pittsburgh that are</i></p>	5:00 p.m. Doors Open

<p><i>culturally significant to them. What results is an honest and insightful look into some of the diverse communities that call Pittsburgh home.</i></p> <p><i>Join the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh for a screening of this short film and a Q & A session with the featured students.</i></p> <p><i>This event is free, but registration is required</i></p> <p><i>Allegheny County Department of Human Services One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219</i></p>	<p>5:30 p.m. Screening and Q & A</p>
<p>Voting 101 <i>South Hills Interfaith Movement and Whitehall Public Library will host one among many voter education programs happening around the Allegheny County area for new and future citizens. This session will include information about the voting and election process, as well as time for public questions and answers, and voter registration. Similar sessions will be held throughout September and October.</i></p> <p><i>Whitehall Public Library 100 Borough Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238</i></p>	<p>6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</p>
<p>THURSDAY, September 22, 2016</p>	
<p>Naturalization Ceremony <i>The Allegheny County Department of Human Services' Immigrants and Internationals Advisory Council will partner with the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) to host a naturalization ceremony.</i></p> <p><i>Allegheny County Human Services Building One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219</i></p>	<p>11:00 a.m.</p>
<p>FRIDAY, September 23, 2016</p>	
<p>Welcoming Week Musical Celebration <i>Zambian musician Mathew Tembo will perform a range of African music during a lunchtime concert for Welcoming Week. Mathew will be joined by local jazz guitarist Colter Harper.</i></p> <p><i>Allegheny County Courthouse Courtyard 436 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219</i></p>	<p>12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>
<p>SATURDAY, September 24, 2016</p>	
<p>Immigrant & Refugee Community Inter-Neighborhood Civics Quiz <i>The second annual Immigrant & Refugee Community Inter-neighborhood Civics Quiz Contest will give members of the immigrant and refugee community an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of U.S. history, geography and the rights and responsibilities that accompany U.S. citizenship. While the quiz show is designed, in part, to prepare individuals seeking U.S. citizenship for the civics test, the questions asked will go beyond the basic quiz questions administered by USCIS to foster a deeper understanding of the subject matter and encourage more meaningful civic engagement among immigrants and refugees.</i></p> <p><i>Brentwood High School 3601 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15227</i></p>	<p>11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>

SATURDAY, September 24, 2016

Hay Day/Family Green Fest

Hartwood Hay Day features free activities for the whole family, including hay rides, hay maze, bounce-house attractions, trackless train, arts & crafts tent, petting zoo, hikes, games, puppet shows, balloon artists, face painters, a strolling magician and much more! The Family Green Fest (formerly the Green & Innovation Festival) features free educational and informational activities focusing on sustainability and the environment, as well as I Made It! Market, a fantastical, nomadic, pop-up handmade indie crafts marketplace. Food trucks will also be on site, so bring your appetite!

There will be a Welcoming Booth hosted by the Allegheny County DHS Immigrants and Internationals Advisory Council members. Compass AmeriCorps members will be on hand to engage children in activities to learn to express welcome in several languages, learn about some of our new neighbors in Allegheny County, and to create messages of welcoming to newcomers that will be displayed. Information about local organizations that provide ESL classes, mentoring and other supports to immigrants and refugees will also be featured along with opportunities for volunteering.

[Hartwood Acres Park Amphitheater](#)

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, September 26, 2016

Immigrant and Refugee Small Business Resource Fair

Join exhibitors from non-profit groups and others throughout the Pittsburgh region who can help you start or grow your small business. Learn about available assistance with your building, your business plan, financing, mentorship and other great opportunities for new and established small businesses.

*Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Knoxville
400 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15210*

Learn more on the [event page](#)

4:30 – 7:00 PM

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