

# ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL



September 2016



## COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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### Upcoming Council Meetings

October 18, 2016

November 9, 2016

November 22, 2016

\*Please note that all meetings start at 5pm in the Gold Room of the Court House.

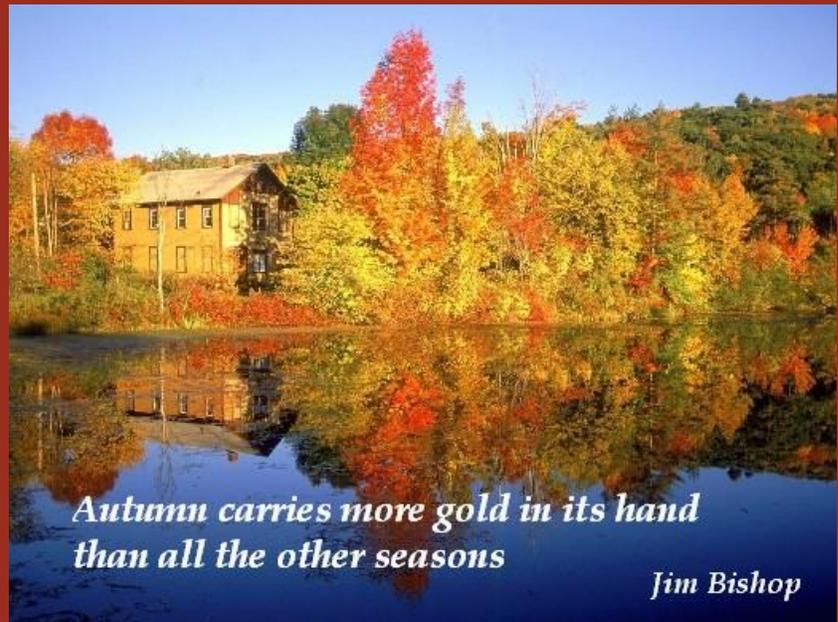
### COUNTY COUNCIL

119 Courthouse-436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-350-6490

[www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council)

[www.facebook.com/allegheny-county-council](https://www.facebook.com/allegheny-county-council)

Phone: 412-350-6490  
Fax: 412-350-6499



*Autumn carries more gold in its hand  
than all the other seasons*

*Jim Bishop*

Colorful, crisp leaves start falling to the ground, there is a cool chill in the air, and nothing sounds better than sitting next to a bonfire. Fall is here and mother nature is smiling beautifully upon us.

Just like summer has officially come to an end for all of you, our readers, so it has for County Council. Summer recess is over and so begins the regular council season.

In this newsletter, you will find informative articles on the latest Council events, works, and noteworthy articles that are sure to intrigue you. Thanks for reading!!



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## COUNTY COUNCIL



# Proclamations

THE **PENN STATE** CENTER  
ENGAGING PITTSBURGH



## DR. DE CIANTIS RETIRES

**Dr. Deno De Ciantis has served the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh through his work as an educator, researcher and administrator at Penn State University, Pennsylvania's only land-grant university, since 1990 .**

From 1990 to 1993, Dr. De Ciantis served as a 4-H Youth Development Coordinator for Penn State Cooperative Extension of Allegheny County, and since 1993 as the Penn State Cooperative Extension Director, serving the 1.3 million residents of Allegheny County. Since 2008, he has served as the Director of the Penn State Center Pittsburgh (PSCP), an office of Extension, Outreach and Online Education.

Dr. De Ciantis worked tirelessly to connect research, service and learning to meet Pittsburgh's regional needs, and he successfully created opportunities for engaged scholarship and the use of research-based best practices to solve community problems.

Dr. De Ciantis was awarded the inaugural National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL) Leader of the Year Award in 2015. His services and affiliations include numerous county governments, Penn State committees, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, Duquesne University Century Club of Distinguished Alumni, Autumn House Press Board, Three Rivers Community Foundation Board and other local community initiatives.

Allegheny County Council recognizes Dr. Deno De Ciantis for his 26 years of dedication, commitment and exemplary leadership, and thank him for bringing the educational resources of Penn State University to the residents of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Also, upon the occasion of his retirement, Council wishes him much happiness as he begins this new chapter in his life.

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# Proclamations

September 2015, Mr. Robert "Bob" Miecznikowski, a lifelong resident of Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, retired from Allegheny County after more than 40 years of dedicated service in the Office of the Treasurer.

Bob earned his master's degree from Duquesne University and began his career on December 6, 1974 in the Allegheny County Treasurer's Office as a generalist, providing a variety of taxpayer services. Ultimately becoming the first manager of the newly created Special Tax Division, handling the collection of the Alcoholic Beverage Tax, Vehicle Rental Tax, and Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Allegheny County Council, in conjunction with Allegheny County Treasurer John K. Weinstein, hereby wishes to honor and recognize Mr. Robert "Bob" Miecznikowski for his 40 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Allegheny County and to wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



**Ms. Georgia C. Hernandez has dedicated herself to serving the children of Allegheny County since 1973.** She joined Beth El Nursery School in 1973 as a student teacher from Community College of Allegheny County. She became the school's director in 1985 and served in that capacity until her retirement in 2002.

She was first appointed to the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Board in 2001, and she has served as the board chair since 2003.

In honor of Ms. Hernandez, the *Georgia Hernandez Award for Excellence in Child Welfare Practice* will be presented annually during Child Abuse Prevention Month to a caseworker who exemplifies excellence in case practice, a commitment to the Allegheny County Department of Human Services vision and guiding principles, and who consistently demonstrates several core competencies.

Allegheny County Council congratulates Ms. Georgia C. Hernandez for her exemplary leadership, unparalleled generosity and her 43 years of devoted service to the welfare of children in Allegheny County.



# Proclamations

Ms. Marlene Hunt of Penn Hills has dedicated herself to serving the members of the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) since September 1, 2004 as its Financial Secretary.

As ALOM's most tenured employee, Marlene has developed long-standing friendships and positive working relationships with dozens of ALOM constituents. Marlene's expertise in accounting has greatly contributed to ALOM's effectiveness and efficiency.

Marlene retired from ALOM on August 31, 2016, and will begin working part-time at the CONSOL Energy Center during Pittsburgh Penguins games.

Allegheny County Council congratulates and thanks Ms. Marlene Hunt for her years of dedicated service to the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) upon the occasion of her retirement, and wish her well in her future endeavors.



## "Amanda Polk Day"

President John DeFazio, Council Members DeWitt Walton and Paul Klein, along with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald declared September 8, 2016 as "Amanda Polk Day" in Allegheny County.

This momentous declaration was done to recognize the great achievements that Amanda Polk, an Oakland Catholic graduate and Allegheny County native, made while participating at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics as a part of the U.S. Women's Coxed Eight team. Polk rowed in the third position at the Olympics and is a decorated rower at the University of Notre Dame, and while at Oakland Catholic, earned national rankings in rowing three times.





## What is County Council up to?



On August 16, Councilman Bob Macey and House Representative Bill Kortz had a chance to inspect the Homeville Bridge Project in West Mifflin with the Project team. It was an opportunity for the Councilman to personally see the progress of projects being done in his district.



Councilman Tom Baker of District 1, held a Town Hall Meeting at Buford's Kitchen in Moon Township on Tuesday, August 16, 2016.

There was terrific representation at the meeting from Aleppo, Coraopolis, Findlay, Glenfield, Moon, and North Fayette which led to an incredibly productive dialogue. Friends, colleagues, and Councilman DeMarco gathered at the Town Hall for good conversation and food. It was an opportunity to share information, receive updates, and discuss county matters affecting District 1 communities.





## What is County Council up to?

**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH!**



Councilman Sam DeMarco attended the Critters in the Courtyard event and took a moment to pose for a picture with Animal Friends volunteer, Debbie Vidulich, and adoptable dog, Bonnie.



**On August 4, 2016, Councilman Mike Finnerty attended the Allegheny County Conservation District's Impact Report– Program Year 2015.**

Jan Lauer, the District Manager, and Don Newman, the Chairman of the Board, presented a concise report on the Allegheny County Conservation District. They explained the purpose and structure of the conservation district denoting the four solution centers—soils, agricultural, storm water, and watersheds.

“The impact report for 2015” was presented to Council and discussed. It was noted that Allegheny County Conservation District was Awarded “the most improved conservation district” by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Councilman Finnerty stated that the presentation was very “enlightening for Council.”

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## Spotlight



Councilman Tom Baker, of District 1, was featured in the Tribune Review for participating in the Real Men Wear Pink Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society in the Strip District at Savoy on August 17, 2016.

Allegheny County Council would like to acknowledge Councilman Baker for connecting with others that support the mission of the American Cancer Society, and for his commitment for raising breast cancer awareness in the community.



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## Get to know your Councilmember



**John P. DeFazio**

**County Council At-Large, President**



John DeFazio (D) was elected by the voters of Allegheny County to one of two at-large seats on County Council. It took the urging of friends and union leaders for him to run for Council.

A former professional wrestler, Councilman DeFazio was known as "Jumpin Johnny" in the 1960s and 70s. He appeared in several matches on Channel 11's Saturday broadcast of "Studio Wrestling." While "Jumpin Johnny" was in recess during the week, Councilman DeFazio followed his father's footsteps to the steel mills. At the age of 29, he won the presidency of his local union.

At the age of 36, Councilman DeFazio became the International Staff Representative for the United Steelworkers of America. Later, Councilman DeFazio worked as the Director of the United Steel Workers of America in Pennsylvania.

Councilman DeFazio serves on the Maglev Board and as coordinator of the Civil Rights Committee in Western Pennsylvania. He has served as chairman of the Shaler Democratic Committee. Councilman DeFazio has always seen himself as a "man of the people." He has stated "I'd like to be more accountable to the people, trying to do what the majority of the people want."

He and his wife, Marsha, have six children and live in Shaler.

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# COUNTY COUNCIL



## 2017 County Council Budget Hearing

### COUNTY COUNCIL HEARING SCHEDULE

October 25th, 26th, 27th, 2016

- Tuesday, October 25, 2016 Independently Elected Offices/Courts will present.
- Wednesday, October 26, 2016 the County Manager and Director of Budget and Finance will present.
- Thursday, October 27, 2016 the Port Authority along with CCAC will present.

**\*All meetings are scheduled to begin at 5:00pm in the Gold Room.**

Please note that public is permitted to speak at all hearings; however, they have to sign up to speak at least 24 hours prior to the Budget Hearings. For more information on how to sign up, please go to:

<http://www.alleghenycounty.us/council>



## Fall Flings



### Fall Foliage Hike!

Sunday, October 30, 2016 2pm-4pm at Deer Lakes Park Carp Field Park Lake, join Park Rangers and experience the changing of the seasons. The Hike is free, but pre-registration is recommended.

[www.alleghenycounty.us/parkprograms](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/parkprograms)



Join SHARP Robotics from the Sarah Heinz House to construct a catapult, then help launch pumpkins across the amphitheater field. Kids will be able to create their own catapult to take home.

**When:** Saturday, October, 22, 11am-2pm

**Where:** Hartwood Acres Park

### Spooky Night Hike

Join the North Park Rangers on Sunday, October 23, from 7-9pm for a walk around a dimly lit trail as you hear chilling tales about local legends and superstitions.

Pre-registration is recommended.

[www.alleghenycounty.us/parkprograms](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/parkprograms)

### SALT, DRY, SMOKE & PICKLE.

**When:** Oct 16, 1:30-4:30pm

**Where:** South Park Oliver Miller Homestead

**Cost:** \$2 per person

**Info:** Learn how 18th Century families survived without refrigerators, canned goods and supermarkets.

Season Ski Passes are now on sale at Boyce Park!! Enjoy unlimited skiing and snowboard all season for one low price once you purchase a season ski pass. Passes are \$85-\$250 for individuals and \$600 for a family of four.

\*\*Purchase by December 1 for extra savings!

For more info go to:  
[alleghenycounty.us/parkpasses](http://alleghenycounty.us/parkpasses)



North Park & South Park Season Skating Passes on Sale NOW!

Unlimited ice skating passes all season long for one low price! \$50 for ages 18-59 and \$25 for ages 60 and older.

Get your pass today at:  
[alleghenycounty.us/parkpasses](http://alleghenycounty.us/parkpasses)



Sit around a campfire while your local Park Ranger tells spooky ghost stories at your local county park. Kids can wear a costume for a chance to win a prize!

For dates and times, go to:

[www.alleghenycounty.us/special-events/campfire-ghost-stories.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/special-events/campfire-ghost-stories.aspx)

HOOT!



Saturday, October 29, 6-8pm join Round Hill Park Rangers for a FREE owl prowl event. Park Rangers will educate those participating about local owls and their behaviors.



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## Information Center

### Speak at Council Meetings

Allegheny County citizens may address Council at Regular meetings. Visit Council's website at:

<http://www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council/request-to-comment.aspx>

### Allegheny County

Information Line:

412-350-4636



Winter is right around the corner, make sure you are prepared. To report a street in the City of Pittsburgh in need of snow or ice removal, please call

412-255-2526.

### Hunting License

Current year hunting licenses are available July 1 and are valid through June 30 of the following year.

License costs include a \$1.00 issuing fee. All replacement licenses cost \$6.70.

For specific costs and more info, go to:

<http://alleghenycounty.us/treasurers-office/general-hunting-license-fees.aspx>

Interested in holding your next event at a national historic landmark?

Look no further! The Allegheny County Courthouse is sure to have all that you're looking for in a venue.

For more information, visit here:

[www.alleghenycounty.us/special-events/venue-rentals.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/special-events/venue-rentals.aspx)



### Questions or Comments?

We would love to hear from you! Contact us at 412-350-6490 or via email at [CouncilNews@AlleghenyCounty.us](mailto:CouncilNews@AlleghenyCounty.us)

### Want to keep up with the latest County news?

Sign up for Allegheny Alerts, a FREE service that sends you information you want the want it.

You can be contacted with specific alerts via email, text, voice, work, home, mobile—any or all of them.

For more information go to:

[alleghenycounty.us/Alerts](http://alleghenycounty.us/Alerts)

### Allegheny County Row Offices

Controller Chelsa Wagner

412-350-4660

District Attorney Stephen Zappala

412-350-4400

Sheriff William P. Mullen

412-350-4700

Treasurer John Weinstein

412-350-4100



### Work the Vote!

Election Day is quickly approaching, and Election Officers are need to work local voting polling site. Trained Officers can earn from \$105 to \$130 for the day, and new Election Officers receive paid training.

For more information, go to:  
[www.alleghenycounty.us/elections/volunteers.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/elections/volunteers.aspx)