



2013 FireVEST Scholarship Graduates

At the Regular Meeting of Council on September 24th, County Council, in conjunction with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, honored the 2013 Fire, Volunteer, Education, Service & Training Scholarship Program (FireVEST) graduates.

In Allegheny County, volunteer firefighters protect over 910,000 people. In addition, volunteer firefighters save the county an estimated \$60 million dollars a year. There are 203 volunteer fire companies in Allegheny County and the challenge of keeping these companies fully staffed, well trained and ready to respond at a moment's notice is one that nearly every fire company in the region addresses on a regular basis.

Because fire companies are essential to ensuring safe and well-protected communities, the Allegheny County Fire Academy and the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) are working together to offer full scholarships for an

associate's degree or certificate program at CCAC, as well as training at the Allegheny County Fire Academy. Of the 200 scholarships offered per year, 150 are for new recruits in exchange for a commitment of five (5) years of service to a volunteer fire department in Allegheny County, while 50 scholarships will be awarded to existing volunteers in exchange for a commitment of five (5) additional years of service.

FireVEST scholarship recipients have majored in programs such as Fire Science Administration, Criminal Justice & Criminology, Business Management, Nursing, and more.

For more information about the FireVEST Scholarship Program call 412.931.3158 (ext. 5) or send an e-mail to

firevest@alleghenycounty.us. Applications are due Nov. 15th for a Spring Term start.



Pictured from L to R: Elizabeth Strenkowski, CCAC, Sandy Bayer, Fire Academy, Al Wickline, Fire Academy, Council President Charles Martoni, FireVEST graduate Adam McKnight of the Renton VFC #2, FireVEST graduate Megan Wichelmann of the West Mifflin VFC #3, Council Members Bob Macey and Nick Futules, Dr. Charles Blocksidge, FireVEST Advisory Board Member, and Chief Alvin Henderson, Jr., Emergency Services.

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Information
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Important information & upcoming County events, listed in one location.

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North Park Boathouse Renovated into New Café

The old North Park Boathouse, which sat virtually idle for more than 30 years, has been re-born as a restaurant. A large crowd turned out Tuesday, October 15th for the official opening of the Over the Bar (OTB) Bicycle Café in North Park. Council Members Jan Rea and Nick Futules, along with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Parks Director Andy Baechle, celebrated the opening of the OTB restaurant.



Co-owner Michael Kotyk (pictured below) and his partners spent three years and a half million dollars renovating the building. “The boathouse basically was full of canoes, kayaks and birds when we took it over,” Kotyk said. The café is decorated in the manner of Kotyk’s OTB Bicycle Cafe on the South Side.

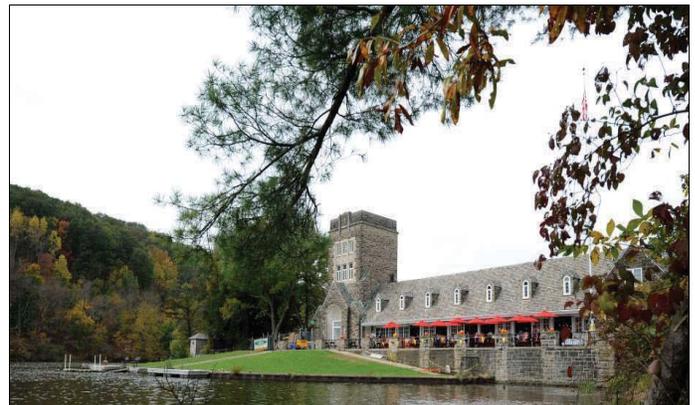


County officials authorized a five-year lease in November 2012 with the café operators for an initial annual rent of \$36,000 that will rise to \$60,000 in the fifth year. Renewal terms for years six through 10 call for rent of \$69,000 per year. The café invested about \$550,000 in the project to date, of which more than \$300,000 was in building improvements.

The county will retain the right to rent out the second floor of the building for dinners and receptions. The nonprofit organization, Venture Outdoors, will continue to operate its Kayak Pittsburgh rental concession in another part of the boathouse.



The menu features sandwiches, salads, burgers and craft beer, either at high-top tables or booths inside or on the patio, where patrons can watch kayakers or geese. Mr. Kotyk said the new restaurant will place special emphasis on a healthy menu that will appeal to the many walkers, runners and cyclists who visit North Park.



The hours of operation are Monday thru Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 12 a.m. The location is the North Park Boathouse, 10301 Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. For more information call 724-940-5000.

Photo credits: Philip G. Pavely | Tribune-Review



Proclamations Presented at the June/July/August Regular Meetings



On June 4th, Council honored Ms. Laura Ditka for her leadership, dedication and 25 years of service to the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. Ms. Ditka led the Child Abuse and Crimes Against Persons Unit. Ms. Ditka accepted a new role as the senior deputy attorney general in Western Pennsylvania for the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office.



On June 4th, County Council, along with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, recognized the Obediah Cole Foundation for Prostate Cancer for its continual efforts to raise awareness of prostate cancer. The week of June 10th was named "Prostate Cancer Awareness Week" in Allegheny County. Pictured above (l to r): Brandon Gillingham, Jackee Ging, Jerry Bortman, Jerry Livingston, and Councilwoman Green Hawkins.



On June 18th, Council recognized Dr. Charles Blocksidge for his many achievements and thanked him for his service to the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) upon his retirement. Dr. Blocksidge served in the CCAC administration in varied leadership roles. He looks forward to spending more time with his wife Bonnie, his children and grandchildren.



On July 2nd, Councilman Burn presented Ms. Emily Cavacini with a certificate in recognition for winning the 2013 Girls' Championship of the 90th National Marbles Tournament held in Wildwood, New Jersey on June 20, 2013.



On August 20th, Mr. Richard L. Allison received a proclamation from President Martoni and Councilman Robinson for earning the EMS Champion Award by the Allegheny County Emergency Services Council. Mr. Allison is Dean of Academic Affairs for the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) Boyce Campus and Coordinating Dean of Allied Health for CCAC. He is credited with transforming the existing non-credit Paramedic Program to a credit bearing Certificate and Degree Program at CCAC.



On August 20th, Council Members Ellenbogen, Finnerty, and Macey congratulated Ms. Macaila Ziolkowski for winning the 2013 All-American Soap Box Derby (Stock Division) World Championship.



On June 4th, Council Members Danko and Burn presented a certificate of achievement to Mr. Robert Vaerewyck of Boy Scout Troop 646 for earning his Eagle Scout rank. Councilwoman Danko, Troop 646 members and Mr. Mike Wojcik is pictured above with Mr. Vaerewyck.



On August 20th, Councilmen Ellenbogen and Finnerty honored Ms. Cindy Hoffman for bringing international acclaim to Pittsburgh and Allegheny County by being crowned the women's world champion in the 2013 World Horseshoe Tournament.



On August 20th, Councilman Mike Finnerty congratulated Mr. Jerry Campolongo, Vice President of Pittsburgh Yellow Cab Company, upon the occasion of the organization’s 100th anniversary. Yellow Cab, originally Pullman Taxi, began operations in 1912 and officially became the Yellow Cab Co. of Pittsburgh one year later in 1913. Pittsburgh Yellow Cab is one of the largest taxi companies in the state today, operating over 300 cabs on “call and demand” service throughout Pittsburgh and the surrounding communities. This year, Pittsburgh Yellow Cab rolled out a slew of innovations in its taxi fleet including credit card machines, wheelchair accessible taxis and alternative powered fuel taxis. The councilman thanked the company for moving Pittsburgh and the region forward for 100 years.

On October 22nd, Council Members Palmiere and Harris honored the South Park Council of Friends and South Park Leaders for making significant and consistent contributions to improve Allegheny County’s South Park. South Park encompasses 2,013 acres in the Municipality of Bethel Park and South Park Township. The Friends recently completed its first project, a 20 station fitness trail around Maple Springs Pond. In addition, the group agreed to dedicate funds towards establishing a fountain with lights at the pond. Councilman Palmiere praised their fundraising efforts and gave special recognition to Ms. Presley Oliphant for her campaign called “Save the Game Preserve.” The South Park Game Preserve is currently home to a herd of buffalo, ducks, geese, and a peacock. It is also the site of the Kiddoo House which Presley would like to see turned into an educational nature center.



On August 27th, Council Members Burn and Heidelbaugh honored Mr. Brian Wolovich for his dedication and commitment to establishing the Millvale Community Library. A Millvale native and resident, Mr. Wolovich, a sixth-grade teacher in the Quaker Valley School District, recognized the level of cooperation and resolve in the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan and flash flooding devastation to Millvale, and decided that same effort could be used for a proactive reason. Through Brian’s leadership, the first library serving the community of Millvale, located at 213 Grant Avenue, opened on Sunday,



August 18, 2013. After 5 years of hard work, planning and \$500,000 in fundraising, the library will serve as a center of knowledge and as a hub for meetings, classes, tutoring and various programs. For more information visit <http://millvalelibrary.org> or call 412.822.7081.

On July 9th, Council Member Heather Heidelbaugh honored Ms. Chloe Kondrich for serving as an advocate for persons with disabilities by breaking down barriers, increasing public awareness and changing attitudes by focusing on abilities. Chloe serves as an advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome and her father Kurt is an



advocate for the inclusion and early intervention of children with special needs. On April 25, 2013, Chloe joined Governor Tom Corbett for the ceremonial signing of the Pennsylvania Special Education Reform Bill, and she has met with many lawmakers and high-profile celebrities demonstrating that children with Down syndrome are full of hope, potential and light.



5th Annual Kids Health & Safety Fair

Allegheny County Council Member Krista Harris, along with State Senator Matt Smith and Representative Dan Miller hosted the fifth annual Kids Health and Safety Fair on Saturday, October 26 from noon to 1:30 pm at Mt. Lebanon's Public Safety Center located at 555 Washington Road. The fair followed Mt. Lebanon's annual Pumpkin Patch Parade, which began at 11 a.m. in the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery adjacent to the public safety building.

Representatives from local and county services departments, public safety departments, local organizations and government offices were on-site to provide kid friendly information on health and safety issues.



Candy was available for the trick-or-treaters and children had the opportunity to inspect a fire truck, meet Mt. Lebanon Fire Department's mascot Sparky and interact with a police learning car.

Councilwoman Harris said, "The Halloween Safety Fair is a great opportunity to bring together our children and public safety officers in a kid-friendly and appropriate environment. Families certainly enjoyed the activities and learned important safety tips. I enjoyed seeing everyone in their costumes!" She added, "It's always good to promote safety for youngsters, and Halloween is a time when we can really impact the mindsets of kids regarding health and safety issues. Parents in Mt. Lebanon have really come to look forward to this event for their children."

Tri-COG Blight Summit

Thursday, October 4th, marked the Tri-COG (Council of Governments) Blight Summit, held at CCAC Boyce Campus. The group, consisting of three entities: the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments, the Twin Rivers Council of Governments, and the Steel Valley Council of Governments, hosted the Summit to inform people of the financial impact that blight is having on Mon Valley communities.



Council President, Dr. Charles Martoni, is pictured above, speaking to audience members at the Summit.

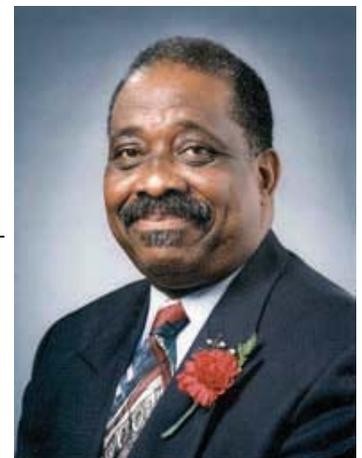
Since the exodus of industry that occurred decades ago, local governments have been struggling to deal with lost tax revenues and the costs for municipal services that blighted properties require, costing affected Mon Valley communities an estimated \$19.4 per year.

While these figures may seem grim, there is hope for a brighter future for these areas in the form of a state law passed in 2012 that allows for the creation of land banks. Land banks are groups of government entities who are connected by intergovernmental cooperation agreements that then allow them to "covert vacant and tax delinquent properties into productive use." Through the use of these land banks, and other techniques available to municipalities, along with positive growth outlooks in some of the communities, the seminar succeeded in showing attendees that blight can be beat in the Mon Valley.

Councilman Robinson Receives Awards for Contributions

Over the past few months, Councilman Bill Robinson has received several awards to add to his already impressive and distinguished mantle. Throughout his life and career, Bill Robinson has exemplified what it means to give back to the community and the following awards that he has received recognize and honor those lifelong contributions.

The first of these awards, the Pittsburgh Circle of Courage Award, was presented to the Councilman on Friday, August 30th at the Doubletree Hotel in Monroeville. The Circle of Courage Award is presented to "individuals who have displayed outstanding faith and courage in their careers, ministries, and other aspects of life." The Councilman's second award, Talk Magazine's Minority Achiever's Man of Distinction award, is presented to a person who has been deemed to have "made outstanding contributions in their profession."





Local Government Academy Honors Municipal Interns

On August 8th, 2013 the Local Government Academy hosted its annual Recognition Luncheon, honoring the participants of the 2013 Municipal Intern Program for completing their summer internships.

The program, now in its 17th year, places both undergraduate and graduate students with municipalities, authorities and Councils of Government to complete a specified project, giving the students an opportunity to learn the daily challenges faced by local governments and giving the organization extra assistance during the summer. This year's intern class consisted of eleven participants working on projects ranging from document preservation and recycling to exploring ways to increase ridership on public transportation.

In attendance at the luncheon were several Members of Council, including Council President Dr. Charles Martoni, and Members Mike Finnerty, Barbara Daly Danko and Matt Drozd, all there to recognize and honor the graduates for their outstanding work and achievements, as well as for their interest in local government.

Collier Township Embraces Green Infrastructure

Collier Township is working to promote green infrastructure and to educate its citizens about its benefits. Now ask yourself, what better way to lead by example than by installing a rooftop photovoltaic solar system on the top of your Township Public Works building? That's exactly what the Township of Collier did.

On Wednesday, September 25th, officials gathered at a "Flip the Switch" event to dedicate the rooftop solar system, consisting of 110 modules meant to capture solar energy and generate electricity, saving money and reducing the Township's carbon footprint. The ceremony, attended by Collier officials and County Councilman Mike Finnerty, amongst others, touted the benefits of the system, with estimated carbon dioxide emissions reduced by over one million pounds, and praised the savings to the Township, estimated at nearly \$75,000.

Overall, the event went off without a hitch with Township Manager Sal Sirabella commenting, "It's Collier's hope that our efforts to go green inspire our residents and businesses to follow in our footsteps and strive to reduce their own carbon footprint."

Council Attends Senior Fairs Across the County

October ushered in the "Senior Fair season" for the Allegheny County Council, with Council members participating in three events over the course of a single week. The first in the flurry of Senior Fair's, State Senator Matt Smith's annual Fair, was held at the Galleria at Mt. Lebanon, followed the next day, Friday, October 4th, by State Representative Frank Dermody's event, which was held at the Pittsburgh Mills Mall, and concluded on Thursday, October 10th, with State Representative Bill Kortz's fair, held at the Homeville Volunteer Fire Company #1 in West Mifflin.

In all, six Council districts were represented, Districts 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 12, represented by Council Members Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Krista Harris, Nick Futules, Bob Macey and Jim Ellenbogen, respectively and potentially serving up to half of all Allegheny County residents. Each event offered a wide range of services and information, including representation by the County's Health Department, the Department of Human Services, and the Controller's Office, amongst others. Flu shots were offered at each event, free of charge for seniors as well.

By all standards, each event turned out to be a great success with seniors coming out by the dozens. As Councilman Bob Macey remarked, "A senior fair is a personal way to reach out and inform our older population of the benefits and services available to them which they otherwise may be unaware of."



Pictured above are Council Members Mike Finnerty and Krista Harris at Senator Matt Smith's Senior Fair on October 3rd, 2013.



INFORMATION & EVENTS

Council Committee Chairs

Appointment Review John DeFazio	Health & Human Services John Palmiere
Budget & Finance William Russell Robinson	Parks Nick Futules
Economic Development & Housing Amanda Green Hawkins	Public Safety Jim Ellenbogen
Executive Nick Futules	Public Works Bob Macey
Parks & Public Works Nick Futules & Bob Macey	
Government Reform Charles Martoni	Public Transportation Michael Finnerty

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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

E-MAIL US

If you have a story idea you would like for us to consider, or if you would like to subscribe to the Council News, please send us an e-mail:

councilnews@alleghenycounty.us

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

MEETINGS BEGIN AT 5:00 P.M.
GOLD ROOM - 4th FLOOR
COURTHOUSE



December 17



January 4

HARTWOOD ACRES PARK HOLIDAY EVENTS

"BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE HOLIDAY MUSIC TOUR"

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF HARTWOOD
DECEMBER 14
6 PM-8 PM

TICKETS ARE REQUIRED AND CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$25 AT [HTTP:// FRIENDSOFHARTWOOD.ORG/](http://FRIENDSOFHARTWOOD.ORG/)

Allegheny County Open 2013-2014 Ice Skating Season on November 7th

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2013, THE NORTH PARK AND SOUTH PARK ICE RINKS WILL OPEN (WEATHER PERMITTING)

THE NORTH PARK AND SOUTH PARK ICE RINKS OFFER GIFT CERTIFICATES, AND THE RINKS ARE AVAILABLE TO RENT FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS. THE PARKS DEPARTMENT WILL ONCE AGAIN OFFER BOTH FREE AND PAID ICE SKATING LESSONS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON TO RESIDENTS AGES FIVE AND OLDER.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL:
NORTH PARK ICE RINK: 724.935.1280
SOUTH PARK ICE RINK: 412.833.1499

Accountability Conduct and Ethics Commission of Allegheny County

The ACE Commission receives and investigates complaints of unethical behavior by County officials and employees.
Any citizen may file a complaint

The commission researches and investigates complaints, determines if wrongdoing has occurred, and recommends to County Council penalties against offending parties.

For a copy of the Ethics Code, and more information visit:

www.alleghenycounty.us/ace

2013 Ski/Snowboard Season

THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFERS DOWNHILL SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING AT BOYCE PARK

THE SKI SEASON RUNS FROM THE MIDDLE OF DECEMBER THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF MARCH (WEATHER & CONDITIONS PERMITTING)

REGULAR/NON-HOLIDAY HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY 3:30 PM TO 9:30 PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9:30 AM TO 3:30 PM & 4:00 PM TO 9:30 PM

SEASONAL RATES:
SENIOR CITIZEN- \$40 + 4.00 PER SESSION
ADULT- \$60 + 6.00 PER SESSION
JUNIOR/YOUTH- \$40 + 5.00 PER SESSION

FOR MORE INFO ON DAILY RATES AND HOLIDAY HOURS VISIT: ALLEGHENY-COUNTY.US/PARKS/FEES/SKI.ASPX OR CALL BOYCE PARK AT 724.733.4665