

Council Newsletter



January 2017

Allegheny County Council

119 Courthouse –436 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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

www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council www.facebook.com/allegheny-county-council

With the New Year upon us, things are changing at the office of Allegheny County Council. There has been a resignation of a Council Member, retirement of a senior staff member, and new appointments within Council committees. As we embrace the year 2017, so we also embrace the ever changing County, its needs, and the needs of its residents.

Enclosed in this January 2017 edition of the Council Newsletter, you will find some of the newest occurrences that we hope will intrigue and inspire you.

Thank you for reading this edition of the Council Newsletter. Also, Allegheny County Council and Staff would like to wish you and yours a Happy and Healthy New Year.



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Upcoming Regular Meetings...

February 7, 2017 at 5:00pm

February 21, 2017 at 5:00pm

March 7, 2017 at 5:00pm

March 21, 2017 at 5:00pm

*Note that ALL Regular Council Meetings take place in the Gold Room of the Allegheny County Courthouse

Proclamations



On January 17, 2017, Allegheny County Council in conjunction with County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, came together and proclaimed that Tuesday as **Purple Heart Day** and designated Allegheny County, Pennsylvania as a **Purple Heart County**.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in use today, and it evolved from the Badge of Military Merit created in 1782 by General George Washington for the common soldier.

Allegheny County has great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women of the Armed Forces who have selflessly served their country and this county and who have borne the brunt of battle.

The contributions and sacrifices of the men and women of Allegheny County who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens.

Purple Heart recipients are an integral part of our society and it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the support they have earned: In partnership with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Greater Pittsburgh, Chapter 455, Allegheny County Council and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald named Allegheny County a Purple Heart County, joining many counties across the nation.



Proclamations



Service dogs can perform tasks, improve mobility and provide unconditional love and companionship, helping veterans return to lives of greater independence and fulfillment.

Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans was established by Pittsburgh native, Vietnam Veteran and owner of Veterans Cable Services, Tony Accamando, in order to fund the extensive training regimen required of service dogs, and to pair (free of charge) those dogs with local veterans suffering from physical disabilities or cognitive challenges resulting from traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and/or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans hopes to acquire 22 service dogs over a period of 22 months, through a partnership with Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, at a cost of approximately \$500,000. The number 22 is significant because according to the Veterans Administration, an average of 22 veterans commit suicide every day.

Through the generosity of donors, supporters and its annual "Mutt Strut" fundraiser, Life Changing Service Dogs for Veterans has made a significant impact on this bold endeavor.



Carol Borden, Founder & CEO of Guardian Angels Service Dogs, along with Service Dog, Elvira, at the January 17, 2017, Regular Council Meeting.

Proclamations



Spirit of King Award

Each year, the Spirit of King Award Ceremony honors the lifetime achievements of local citizens who pursue human rights and equality in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The award ceremony is sponsored by the Kingsley Association, the Pittsburgh Pirates, the New Pittsburgh Courier and Port Authority of Allegheny County.

On January 19, 2017, Council Member DeWitt Walton, along with other members of Council, came together to recognize the two recipients of the 2017 Spirit of King Award.

The memory of former Pittsburgh Police Commander, Gwendolyn “Gwen” June Campbell Elliott, was honored by the Spirit of King Award. She was destined to be a champion for women and girls – entering the male-dominated military in 1964, serving five years in the U.S. Air Force, becoming one of the first African American female police officers for the City of Pittsburgh in 1976 and rising to become the first female sergeant, and eventually becoming the Department’s first African American female police commander in 1986. In 2002, Gwen’s Girls was created, an agency dedicated to empowering young women and girls through holistic, gender-specific programs, education and experiences. Gwen Elliott served on more than 25 boards, participated in many community organizations, and received a number of honors and awards. Sadly, she passed away on May 17, 2007 but her legacy continues to live on.

The memory of legendary jazz pianist Walt Harper was honored by the Spirit of King Award. He played trombone in the All-City band at Schenley High School and formed a quintet known as the “Swingin’ Five.” His ten-piece band traveled all over the Eastern and Midwestern United States playing with great jazz legends such as Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughn, George Shearing, and many more. Both a jazz pianist and composer, Mr. Harper is perhaps best known for his rendition of Satin Doll, written by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. Walt Harper received the Mellon Jazz Community Award and the Harry Schwalb Excellence in the Arts Award in 2001 for his accomplishments as an artist and his contributions to the music industry. Mr. Harper recorded eight albums, four CD’s and performed numerous times on national and local television, with his PBS special, “Walt Harper at Fallingwater” receiving an Emmy nomination. Walt Harper remained an active performer until his passing on October 25, 2006.



Get to know your Council Member



Councilman Tom Baker
County Council
District 1

County Councilman Tom Baker was elected on November 5, 2013 to represent District 1 in Allegheny County. He previously served as a School Director in the North Hills School District. Councilman Baker is the Chief Community Affairs Officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh and President of the BBBS Pennsylvania State Association. He is the President of Baker Leadership, the author of three books: *Get Involved! Making the Most of Your 20s and 30s* (released 2008) *Give Our Passion* (released 2010), and *Empowered in Pittsburgh* (released 2012), and is the Founder and Chief Program Officer of Get Involved!, Inc., a 501c3 public charity non-profit organization that educates and empowers young leaders. Since February 2008, Councilman Baker has spoken with over 40,000 students, young professionals, and community leaders at over 350 colleges, corporations, professionals associations, and civic groups across the country. Councilman Baker completed two terms as President of the Pittsburgh East Rotary Club and served as Assistant District Governor for Rotary District 7300. He is also Past President of the National Speakers Association Pittsburgh, Past President of the Coro Pittsburgh Alumni Council, Past President of the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project, Co-Chair of the United States Army Advisory Board and currently serves on the boards of North Hills Community Outreach, the Baierl Family YMCA, and Special Olympics of PA. Councilman Baker was Student Body President while earning his Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from Millersville University and served as President of the Associates for Student Development during his graduate studies in Student Affairs in Higher Education at Indiana University of PA. He has received several honors for his service and leadership. In 2009, he received the Distinguished Civic Leadership Award from Millersville University and the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce selected him as the 2011 Young Business Leader of the Year at their Monroeville ROCs event. Tom was named a 2010 Jefferson Award for Public Service honoree by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, received the Public Sector Leader Award at the 2011 RISE Changemaker Awards, was one of the 2011 "Faces" of Gilda's Club, and was recognized as a 2013 Fast Tracker honoree by the Pittsburgh Business Times. Councilman Baker and his wife, Erin, live in Ross Township and were selected as one of the "Couples for a Cure" in 2012 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Farewell



The Honorable Michael J. Finnerty was elected on November 8, 2005 and was duly sworn into office on January 3, 2006. Because of his leadership, confidence and community presence he was re-elected on November 3, 2009 and November 5, 2013 by the residents of District 4 to serve as their representative.

During his tenure on County Council, Mr. Finnerty was appointed chairman of the budget and finance committee and chairman of the education committee. He also served as a member of the appointment review, economic development and housing, executive, government reform, marketing, parks, public safety, and public works committees. Mr. Finnerty demonstrated a strong interest in the county's financial health, and recently spearheaded efforts to raise the stipends and salaries for council members and the county executive and to increase the spending accounts of council members.

Mr. Finnerty is an active member of his community, including: the Scott Township Civil Service Board; Sons of the American Legion; Chairman, Scott Township Democratic Committee; Scott Township Conservancy; Friends of Scott Township Library; AOH Division #32; AARP-1455; Allegheny County Retiree Council; the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh and Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania; PA State Council of Senior Citizens; the Allegheny County Labor Council; Montour Run Watershed Association and the Montour Trail Council.

County Council, on behalf of the citizens of Allegheny County, recognized The Honorable Michael J. Finnerty for his contributions to Allegheny County Council and to the enhancement of the well-being of the County's citizens. Mr. Finnerty acted always in the best interests of the constituents of Allegheny County and his unwavering commitment to Council served as an exemplary model of leadership. This Council thanks him for his eleven years of dedicated public service and wishes him well as he moves into the future.



Best of luck!



Farewell



Mr. Joseph "Joe" Catanese retired on Friday, December 23, 2016 after 35 years of dedicated service to Allegheny County and its citizens.

Joe received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration/Criminal Justice from Geneva College. He began his distinguished career with Allegheny County in January of 1981 and as a result of diligent work and demonstrated ability, he advanced to his final position as Chief of Staff for Allegheny County Council.

Joe, a longtime resident of West Deer Township, has always been deeply involved in his community, including the West Deer Township Sewage Commission, Deer Lakes Board of School Directors, annual Deer Lakes Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon and other school functions, and as Eucharistic Minister and Pastoral Council for St. Victor Parish.

Joe looks forward to spending more time with his wife of more than 40 years, Gina, their two children, Ashley and Joseph, the family's beloved dog, Bailey, and expanding his services to St. Victor's Parish and the community.

Allegheny County Council honored and thanked Mr. Joseph "Joe" Catanese for his 35 years of dedication and service to Allegheny County and its citizens, and the Council wished him health and happiness and all the best in his future endeavors.

*Thank
you* 

Seasonal Events



Snow & Ski Board Lessons

When: February 2-23, 2017

Time: 6-7pm

Where: Boyce Park

*Pre-registration is required.



Seldom Seen Tours.

Date: February 26, 2017

Time: 2-3pm

Location: Hartwood Acres Mansion

**This is a chance to see 'behind the scenes' at the Mansion, with a tour of our extensive basement and attic. Space is limited so call quickly for your reservation! \$6 per person. Paid reservation required by calling 412-767-9200 up to three months in advance. Tours sell out quickly, so reserve early!*

Let Them Eat Cake-

Marie Antoinette Themed Event!

Where: Hartwood Acres Mansion

Date: February 25, 2017

Time: 1pm-3:30pm

* Come stroll along our 'Hall of Mirrors', watch a dance exhibition, learn the waltz, and enjoy a delicious array of cakes at this novel event. Costumes are encouraged but not required! \$33 for county residents; \$41 for non-residents. Reservations required by calling 412-767-9200 up to three months in advance.

The Allegheny Nine Races Series

When: February 4, 2017

Time: 8am-9pm

Location: North Park

*For more information, or how to register, go to www.acparksfour.com



Snow Princess and Superhero Skate.

Date: February 25, 2017

Time: 11am-4pm

Location: South Park

*Sing along and skate with your favorite Snow Princess and Superhero! ...Ice rink fees



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Valentines Day Skates

Date : February 14, 2017

Time : 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Location : North & South Park

*Couples of all ages, buy one ice rink admission, and get a second ice rink admission of equal or lesser value for free!

Info 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

Allegheny County

Council

Main Line:

412-350-6490



Winter is here, and make sure you are prepared. To report a street in Allegheny County that needs snow or ice removal, please call 412-350-2513 or in the City of Pittsburgh, please call 412-255-2526.

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

Want to keep up with the latest County news?

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

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>

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

Department of Public Works

412-350-2513

ROADS & POT-
HOLE HOTLINE

Questions or Comments?

We would love to hear from you!

Contact us at

412-350-6490 or via email at
CouncilNews@AlleghenyCounty.us

WELCOME
2017

