

# IN

An IN Community Magazine

# Pine-Richland

## ***Star Power***

PR freshman **Loren Prisuta**  
performs with the National  
Tour of 'Hits! The Musical'

**Community Treasures:  
Local Museums to Explore**

PAGE 12

**Special Section: Home & Garden  
Renovation Guide**

PAGE 27



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## features

### 12 Community Treasures

Local museums offer a glimpse into the history of a specific location, and help us honor our communal cultures, customs and heritage.

### 20 Wag-Worthy Playgrounds

This spring, let your furry friends run free (or for a small fee) in the many off-leash dog parks in and around your neighborhood.

### 27 Special Section: Home & Garden Renovation Guide

Spring home improvement ideas to enhance the interior and exterior of your property.



IN Community is a publication dedicated to representing, encouraging and promoting the Pine-Richland area and its comprising municipalities by focusing on the talents and gifts of the people who live and work here. Our goal is to provide readers with the most informative and professional regional publication in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### on the cover

Pine-Richland freshman Loren Prisuta made her hometown proud as she performed with the National Tour of "Hits! The Musical" last year. See story on page 10. Photo by Becky Thurner of Thurner Photography.

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Welcome to the spring issue of IN Pine-Richland magazine.

As the weather begins to warm up, it's time to head outside and let your dog run free at one of the many local off-leash dog parks. Check out "Wag-Worthy Playgrounds" in this issue.

Also, be sure to read "Community Treasures." Though most of us are familiar with our local museums, we're willing to bet there are a few you may not have heard of. These gems provide a sense of community and place by celebrating a collective heritage and offering a great way to get to know the history in your own backyard.

Finally, spring is prime time to begin your home improvement projects. Check out our Home Renovation Guide for great tips on outdoor and indoor renovations. We have advice to help guide you on kitchen and bath updates, landscaping, roofing, decks and more!

*Wayne C. Dollard*  
Wayne C. Dollard

## SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!

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1774 Old State Road	2003	\$1,610,000	321 Pinkerton Rd	1990	\$560,000
5026 Spruce Road	2022	\$1,291,743	223 MacDuff Ct	2007	\$490,000
4109 Fairway Drive	1999	\$1,056,000	350 McKinney Rd	1972	\$480,000
638 Tullamore Trail	2020	\$991,000	5307 Richland Rd	1945	\$476,750
120 English Farm Dr	2012	\$970,000	430 Wallace Road	1952	\$452,500
206 Greenwood Dr	2002	\$925,000	4163 Valleyvue Dr	1994	\$440,000
316 Balsa Dr	2018	\$910,000	4010 Ridgemont Dr	1958	\$400,000
208 Kilclare Ct	2017	\$890,000	6044 Meadow Ln	1955	\$390,000
2015 Stillwater Dr	2006	\$870,000	291 Estates Dr	1976	\$380,000
311 Scarlet Cir	1995	\$775,000	181 Pineview Dr	1969	\$325,000
305 Balsa Dr	2017	\$775,000	4085 Valleyvue Dr	2003	\$325,000
405 Wild Cherry Ct	2003	\$725,000	11137 Babcock Blvd	1969	\$295,000
206 Pine Crest Ct	2014	\$701,000	509 Edgehill Dr	1955	\$290,000
156 Tanglewood	2004	\$685,000	3907 Shepard Rd	1958	\$290,000
177 Alder Dr	2020	\$650,000	432 Mars Rd	1940	\$280,000
1043 South Lake	1998	\$625,000	5310 Georgiann Dr	1948	\$255,000
137 Hamilton Dr	2018	\$621,000	65 Allegheny Ave	1946	\$232,000
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# Providence Heights Alpha School: *A vibrant community that feels like a family.*

By Carissa Trill

When we moved to Pittsburgh five years ago, we chose our house based on the selection of our children's school. Education was our highest priority and we considered many of the area's Catholic schools as an option. Providence Heights Alpha School was always our number-one choice, not only for the advanced and challenging curriculum, but for the caring and compassionate leaders that the students become. The talented teachers turn learning into fun while instilling kindness into every lesson. I remember during my daughter's first week of school, she was playing Candy Land with the principal at the after-school program. It is that example that the students see from all of their teachers and staff that really stands out. It is more than just a school and community; it is truly a family.

Both of my girls started at Alpha School in the PreK program. There they learned independence and self-confidence. When COVID-19 shut down most of the world, my daughters were still learning while the school adapted to the chaos that surrounded us. The small class sizes were always appealing but were also a large reason their education was able to continue uninterrupted during the shutdown. The teachers were patient and able to work with students so that they continued to achieve their highest potential. The teachers and staff were also a huge asset to all of us parents trying to navigate the unknown.

The students at Alpha School thrive on making the most of every day. They learn at an early age about time management, which is one of the assets that help them excel as they get closer to high school. My daughters have enjoyed being part of a book club, chess club, math club, and science club. They have played soccer, basketball, tennis, and even taken tae kwon do as part of the school's extracurricular program.

Alpha School is fortunate to be housed on the beautiful campus of Sisters of the Divine Providence in the North Hills. This allows the students to build a relationship with the Sisters and have many unique experiences, from Halloween parades and Christmas caroling across the property, to Mass in the beautiful chapel of the main building. This location

also fosters a strong connection with nearby LaRoche University. Each year our students get to participate in "LaRoche Day," a day where students travel across campus and spend time learning in the science lab and enjoying lunch in the cafeteria, among other activities. I also love that the girls can walk across the campus to sell Girl Scout cookies after school and that we host soccer games on the amazing field.

I am so proud of my daughters. They love to talk to our family about the Catholic

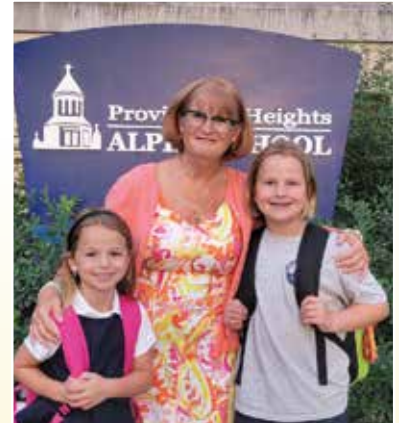
education they receive at Alpha School. To us, the small class size has always been one of the largest factors in their success. I tell everyone that this is not a school, but a tight-knit community. I can be the mystery reader, the class homeroom mom or we can join them at Mass every Friday. We are a huge part of our children's education and lives, and feel grateful and blessed to belong to the Alpha Family!

*Providence Heights Alpha*

*School is an independent, private, Catholic school located in Allison Park. Founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence in 1926, Alpha School provides an exceptional education to children in PreK through eighth grade. Alpha School is open to families of all faiths.*



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To schedule a private tour or learn more about Providence Heights Alpha School, you can call **412.366.4455** or visit the website at **[alphaschool.org](http://alphaschool.org)**.

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Providence Heights Alpha School is founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Divine Providence.





# LOOP IN THE

## WHAT'S NEWS IN PINE-RICHLAND

### KEYNOTES MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION 2024

Keynotes is accepting applications for its 2024 music scholarship competition, which will be held May 11 at the Fine Arts Theatre of Mt. Lebanon High School in the South Hills. Cash awards totaling more than \$16,000 will be available.

Requirements are: Instrumentalists must be under 26 years of age by June 1 and vocalists must be under the age of 30; the student must be a full-time music major at a college, university or music school or a graduating high school senior accepted for admission as a full-time music major; and contestants must be current legal residents of Pennsylvania for one year, or if out-of-state, attending a school in Pennsylvania and can provide proof of a PA address—campus or apartment address (school mailings) or utility bills.

For an application, contact the scholarship chairman, Lori Walter, at 412.260.6972 or [houdini5@hotmail.com](mailto:houdini5@hotmail.com). Deadline for application is April 30. For further information, visit the website at [keynotesmusicscholarship.com](http://keynotesmusicscholarship.com) or on Facebook at Keynotes Music Scholarship.

### NORTH PITTSBURGH QUILTERS GUILD SPRING QUILT SHOW

The North Pittsburgh Quilters Guild is hosting a spring quilt show, “Let’s Go Crazy,” April 19-21 at the Ross Township Community Center, located at 1000 Ross Municipal Drive (15237). Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and noon until 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$10 and there is free parking.

Quilts of all types and sizes will be on display with an emphasis on items made using the Crazy Quilting technique. This technique lends itself to all kinds of artistic and interesting projects. Additionally there will be a full-size bed quilt raffle, specialty vendors, raffle baskets and a Treasure Chest Room with fabric and other quilting “finds.”

Daily “Walk and Talk” sessions with a certified quilt show judge will provide insight into what gave the winning quilts

their edge. Visit [npqg.org](http://npqg.org) for more information.

### NEW RENAISSANCE THEATRE SHOWS

The New Renaissance Theatre announced the “unscripted” Shakespearean plays it will be presenting this summer, “Much Adoe about Nothing” and “Twelfth Night, or What You Will.” This group performs unrehearsed Shakespeare, oftentimes with hilarious results, at open-air spaces all around the Pittsburgh area. This year’s season will run from June 21 through July 14. Watch the schedule to see where they will be and catch a free performance! Visit [newrentheatre.com](http://newrentheatre.com) for more information.

### GIVE YOUR GARDEN A FACELIFT WITH SHALER GARDEN CLUB’S PLANT SALE

Give your garden a facelift this spring by shopping at the Shaler Garden Club’s 70th annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Kiwanis Park, Wetzel Road, Glenshaw. A variety of hardy perennials from members’ yards will be offered at bargain prices, along with herbs, vegetables, houseplants, bulbs, potted arrangements and hanging baskets perfect for Mother’s Day gifts. A basket raffle and bake sale will add to the festivities. It takes place rain or shine, and proceeds benefit community projects and philanthropic donations of the Shaler Garden Club. For more information, go to [shalergardenclub.com](http://shalergardenclub.com).

### DONATE TO MONTHLY SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULT SURVIVORS OF CANCER

Pittsburgh nonprofit Young Adult Survivors United (YASU) is launching Distribution Days, a program to provide supplies every month to young adult cancer survivors (those diagnosed at 18 to 45 years of age) experiencing financial

toxicity. The program, which is offered in partnership with the Christian Cochran Legacy Fund through the Pittsburgh Foundation, has put out a call for donations to support the program, and anyone can contribute.

Founded in March 2020, YASU helps young adult survivors of cancer, along with their caregivers and co-survivors, cope and thrive by providing emotional, social and financial support. Any young adult in the United States who has been diagnosed with cancer can register for a free membership to access YASU’s services, which include both virtual and in-person support groups, educational speakers, wellness workshops, free counseling, social outings, respite trips, and other events. YASU also provides financial assistance grants to members in need of additional support.

YASU’s Distribution Days will provide household supplies and toiletries to further support local young adult cancer survivors. The organization is currently seeking the following items:

- hand soap
- dish soap
- tissues and toilet paper
- paper towels
- hand sanitizer
- laundry detergent
- sponges/scrubbers
- shampoo and conditioner
- all-purpose cleaner
- gift cards to Giant Eagle, Aldi, Sheetz, Target, and Walmart

Items can be donated through YASU’s wish list or in person at 1000 Brooktree Road, Suite 105, Wexford, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those with questions can contact YASU at 724.719.2273.

“Young adults with cancer form a unique community with needs particular to their age and stage of life,” said YASU founder and executive director Stephanie Samolovitch, who faced a leukemia diagnosis at age 20. “At that point, we’re not established in our home lives, in our social lives, in our careers, in our finances. Complications like infertility and financial toxicity can alter the whole trajectory of a young person’s life. That’s why it’s so vital to build support, connection and empowerment for these survivors.” ■



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### DiAnoia's Eatery

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### On the Menu:

Traditional Italian fare with an American twist featuring seasonal dishes. The breakfast menu includes dishes such as Stuffed Cornetti, a Lebanon sweet bologna with fontina to Roasted Red Potatoes and Zeppole (Italian doughnuts). The panini and pasta possibilities flank the lunch menu. There's the Prosciutto Panini (served cold) with fresh mozzarella, arugula, oven-roasted tomato, EVOO and balsamic vinegar. The Veal Parmesan Panini (served hot) features a breaded veal cutlet, prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, provolone and marinara sauce. Pasta dishes include the Pork Sugo, using house-made rigatoni, braised pork, San Marzanos and Parmesan cheese, and the Gnocchi and Meatballs with house-made potato gnocchi, Momma's meatballs, marinara pecorino and Romano cheese. Enjoy the dinner menu indoors or alfresco, with choices such as Steak Florentine, a 1.5-lb. minimum cut short loin drizzled with EVOO, and Branzino, a Mediterranean sea bass stuffed with fennel, garlic, lemon, roasted potatoes and tomatoes. The Dolci

menu includes a house-made tiramisu, zeppole and treats baked fresh daily.



### What led you to open DiAnoia's Eatery?

My wife Aimee and I got married in 2015. I was a chef, and Aimee was a marketer. We wanted to share our love for food and presentation. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we had to pivot a lot. Our staff was great enough to pivot along with us. We were able to maintain sales, which meant we were able to keep people employed. That means everything to us.

### Who has influenced your cooking the most?

My dad, Greg, would do the cooking on Sundays after church. It was an all-day affair, and we would eat around 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. It was fresh pasta with garden tomato sauce—just a simple spaghetti, and made from hand, too. Everything in that sauce came from our garden.

### What's a quick meal you prepare at home?

I like making a whole roasted chicken. I use farm-fresh produce and make a vegetable sauté and add a dash of salt and pepper.

### What tool can't you live without?

I can't live without a side towel, one that hangs from the oven handle. I use it for everything,



Chef David Anioia and Aimee DiAndrea Anioia, owners of DiAnoia's Eatery.

whether it's wiping up a spill during prep or pulling something from the oven. I use two or three a night. At the end of the night, you throw it in the wash.

### What's your best advice for a novice?

Keep everything simple and let the ingredients shine.

### Other than your own restaurants [the Anioias also own Pane è Pronto and Pizzeria Davide], where is your favorite place to eat in Pittsburgh?

There are a few favorites. For sushi we like Mola in East Liberty—their Nigiri is awesome. When it comes to Italian, we find ourselves at Rico's Restaurant in Ross. I order the angel hair pasta with cream sauce and pinole nuts. But there's this new spot I like called Local Provisions in Fox Chapel—it's very cool.

### What's your favorite go-to ingredient?

I like including different cheeses in my recipes because it enriches the dish and adds a flavorful and salty component. A few of my favorite types of cheese are Parmigiana, Caciocavallo (translates to cheese on horseback, which is how this semi-hard cheese was once transported) and Crotonese, a cheese made from sheep's milk in the Calabria region.

### What's the next big food or dining trend?

With the evolution of AI in every industry and the popularity of casual dining, the trend may impact lots of people's jobs. However, I'm a people person and I think that as long as people come first, "good food—fast" is here to stay. ■

—Reese Randall

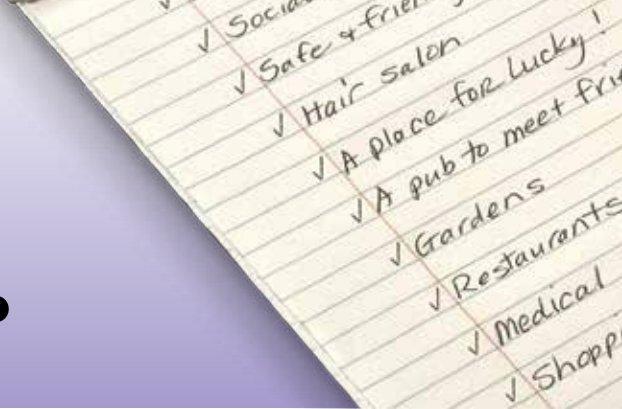


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*"Performing on that particular stage in front of so many loved ones was a bucket list dream come true for me," says Loren Prisuta.*

# A **Star** IN THE **MAKING**

Pine-Richland freshman Loren Prisuta performs with the national tour of 'Hits! The Musical.'

BY NICOLE TAFE

PHOTO BY BECKY THURNER OF THURNER PHOTOGRAPHY.





The cast of "Hits! The Musical" 2023 National Tour.



A Pittsburgh rising star is making waves in the world of the performing arts. Loren Olivia Prisuta, a 14-year-old freshman at Pine-Richland High School, has already left a lasting mark on the stage with her incredible talent and passion for the performing arts.

Loren's journey began at the age of 5 when she joined Jeter Backyard Theater (JBT). Under the guidance of Mrs. Christie Jeter, Loren honed her skills as a performer, and over the past 10 years, she has graced the stage in more than 30 shows with JBT. The early exposure ignited her love for music and theater, leading to voice lessons with Keely Singer and, later, classical voice training with Molly Stater of Molly Stater Music Studio.

Dancing has been a significant part of Loren's artistic journey as well. Also from the age of 5, she has trained at Wexford Dance Academy under the direction of Liz Karas and Beth Robertshaw. Now dancing at the pre-professional company level, Loren has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in every aspect of her craft.

Her acting expertise has been cultivated under the guidance of Daina Griffith of Griffith Coaching Acting Studio in Shadyside, along with sessions with Michael Campayno of The Collective Pittsburgh. Loren's dedication to her training reflects a deep appreciation for the high level of excellence available right in her hometown of Pittsburgh.

Loren's journey took an extraordinary turn with "Hits! The Musical"—a groundbreaking professional production that challenged industry norms. With a cast of youth to young adults, the show aimed to discover talent nationwide, holding auditions in nearly 30 major cities. Pittsburgh, fortunately, was one of them, and Loren seized the opportunity.

The audition process was rigorous, spanning live and virtual auditions, callbacks and a final round in Tampa, Florida. Out of approximately 7,000 hopefuls, Loren emerged as one of the 19 singers and 10 dancers selected for the cast. The experience was life-changing, with rehearsals in Florida and a nationwide, forty-city tour that took them from Concord, New Hampshire, to San Francisco, California in 2023.

Reflecting on the tour, Loren expressed gratitude for the support of her family, especially her mom, Shelley Prisuta, who accompanied her due to her age. The pressure to deliver flawless performances every night taught Loren the importance of preparation, true work ethic and handling various personalities within the cast and crew.

One highlight was the Pittsburgh show, where Loren performed in front of her loved ones. "While each show was special, I think my favorite was my hometown Pittsburgh show at the Benedum Center," she says. "Performing on that particular stage in front of so many loved ones was a bucket-list dream come true for me. So many family, friends, teachers, neighbors,



and people from the community attended to show their support. It was an overwhelming, incredible feeling that is hard to put into words."

Meeting the legendary Dionne Warwick, one of the show's executive producers, added an extra layer of inspiration to Loren's journey.

Transitioning to PA Cyber School during the tour was made possible with the support of Pine-Richland Middle School, demonstrating the community's understanding and support for Loren's pursuit of her dreams.

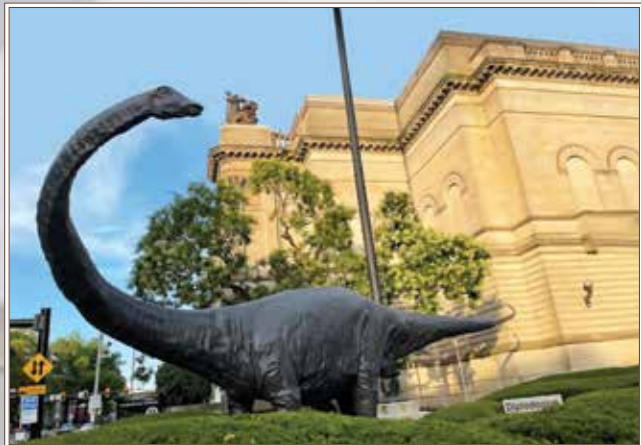
As "Hits! The Musical" explores the possibility of a residency in Las Vegas in 2024/2025, Loren remains focused on her training and auditions. With dreams of performing professionally, potentially on Broadway or recording her own music, Loren's dedication, hard work and determination promise a bright future. ■

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a bright yellow-green short-sleeved top and light blue jeans, is pointing at a display on a white wall. A young girl with short dark hair, wearing a green t-shirt, stands next to her, looking up at the display. The background features large, light blue geometric shapes and a model of a biplane hanging from the ceiling.

# COMMUNITY TREASURES

## LOCAL MUSEUMS

offer a glimpse into the history of a specific location, and help us to honor our communal cultures, customs, heritage and legacy.







## NORTH

### Air Heritage Aviation Museum

Beaver County Airport, 35 Piper Street, Beaver Falls

724.843.2820, [airheritage.org](http://airheritage.org)

If you're an aircraft enthusiast, or even just enjoyed watching "Top Gun," you'll find this museum interesting and especially touching, as you learn about historical aircraft and those who flew them. The collection houses 12 aircraft ranging from the 1930s to the early 1980s, including an F-4 Phantom, a 1935 Fairchild and an F-15 Eagle. One very special part of the collection is a Douglas C-47B Skytrain, nicknamed "Luck of the Irish," flown in WWII, complete with a detailed history of the plane's service from 1944 until its last mission in May 1945.

### Bayernhof Museum

225 Saint Charles Place, O'Hara Township  
412.782.4231, [bayernhofmuseum.com](http://bayernhofmuseum.com)

Despite having been featured on "CBS Sunday Morning" and in numerous articles, many area residents still don't know about the Bayernhof. This Bavarian-inspired home of millionaire Charles Brown, III has more than 140 music boxes and self-playing instruments (many of them extremely rare), plus a secret cave and pool. See this O'Hara Township gem that many have traveled from around the world to see.

### Buhl House Museum

221 South Main Street, Zelienople  
724.452.9457, [visitbutlercounty.com/attractions/buhl-house](http://visitbutlercounty.com/attractions/buhl-house)

Experience the beauty of this 1805 home of German immigrant Christian Buhl. Its 10 rooms contain many of the Buhl family's possessions, but also items related to the history of Zelienople, and life in that time period. It features temporary exhibits on loan as well. Also on Main Street is the beautiful Passavant House estate, where you

can see how Zelig and Philippe Passavant's family lived and worked.

### Butler County Historical Society Museums

123 West Diamond Street, Butler  
724.283.8116, [butlerhistory.com](http://butlerhistory.com)

The Senator Walter Lowrie House (in Butler, built in 1828), the Little Red School House (in Butler, constructed in 1838), and the Cooper Cabin (in Cabot, circa 1810) are all properties owned and maintained by the Butler County Historical Society to preserve and learn about Butler County's diverse history. There are numerous events, programs, exhibits, and collections throughout the year.

### Depreciation Lands Museum

4743 South Pioneer Road, Hampton Township  
412.486.0563, [dlmuseum.org](http://dlmuseum.org)

This museum is not just a building, but an entire village that depicts life in the late 18th and early 19th century. Knowledgeable docents dressed in meticulously accurate period clothing present a living view of history as you venture through the 1837 Covenanter Church building, and an 1803 log house. You'll visit a working blacksmith shop, a one-room school, and an 18th century tavern, along with many more exhibits. Great for kids and adults alike! It's open May through October.

### Fern Hollow Nature Center

1901 Glen Mitchell Road, Sewickley  
412.741.6136, [fhnc.org](http://fhnc.org)

Fern Hollow is more of an outdoor museum, where you can experience the natural beauty of the area's vast creek system and enjoy nature walks where you'll encounter all sorts of wildlife, native trees and plants. Although this is a popular destination for school groups (offering a Natural Outdoor Classroom), there are also programs and events specially designed for families and adults.

### Harmony Museum

218 Mercer Street, Harmony  
724.452.7341, [harmoniuseum.org](http://harmoniuseum.org)

A fascinating group of people who decided to go "off grid" from their traditional Lutheran background formed a new order based on communal living, mysticism and a strong work ethic. They were German immigrants seeking religious freedom, and chose the area of Harmony to found their small 1805 settlement. You can see how this community lived, worked and worshipped and learn other history of the area.

### Hartwood Acres Mansion

200 Hartwood Acres, Hampton/Indiana Townships

412.767.9200, [alleghenycounty.us/parks](http://alleghenycounty.us/parks)

Based on Tudor-style architecture, the 31-room Hartwood Acres mansion features stately rooms with lush furnishings and fabrics. Though the building was completed in 1929, you'll feel as if you've been transported to 16th century England! There is also a stable complex and gate lodge, along with beautiful formal gardens.

### John A. Hermann Jr. Memorial Art Museum

318 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue

412.761.8008, [johnhermannmuseum.org](http://johnhermannmuseum.org)

Born in 1855, John Hermann was self-taught and his paintings were little known during his lifetime, but this museum showcases the work of the native Bellevue artist. Included is a series that evokes warm memories of local events and neighborhoods. The museum also hosts exhibitions of area artists. It is generally open Sunday afternoons or by appointment.

### Mars Train Station Museum

1 Brickyard Road, Mars

724.272.9588, [marshistory.org](http://marshistory.org)

The active historical society supporting this museum has a large collection of artifacts, including a nostalgic display featuring the Mars Theatre of 1950-1960, a 1926 caboose and an operating early 20th century windmill. The lovely 1897 Mars Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station is a museum that gives a glimpse of travel when time moved a little slower.

Continued on next page >





## McCandless/Northern Allegheny Heritage and Cultural Center

9955 Grubbs Road, Wexford  
412.364.0616, townofmccandless.org  
(under "Departments")

This replica of a one-room schoolhouse contains artifacts and documents pertaining to the Town of McCandless, the North Allegheny School District, and surrounding communities. It was the dream of Joe Bullick, an employee of the school district for 40 years, to see his collection publicly shared with the community after it took him over 20 years to catalog. Various events are held at the center as well.

## Sewickley Heights History Center

1901 Glen Mitchell Road, Sewickley  
412.741.4487, sewickleyheightshistory.org

The turn of the 20th century was a unique time in our nation's history, especially in Sewickley Heights where many wealthy industrialists settled. It was a place where elaborate parties and events were held, with plenty of lavish balls and equine events. This museum has period attire, unique photos and film, and carefully restored vintage cars and carriages documenting the Gilded Age. It also hosts an annual Riding and Driving Party and other events and lectures. If you were fascinated by the era of "The Great Gatsby," you'll love this trip through the past.

## Tour-Ed Mine & Museum

748 Bull Creek Road, Tarentum  
724.224.4720, tour-edmine.com

This mine was originally owned by Allegheny Steel, with the coal used at its steel mills in Brackenridge. You can experience firsthand what it was like for the 1850s miners who helped build this region. Since it's only open certain months of the year, be sure to call ahead to verify times.

## Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum

5507 Lakeside Drive, Gibsonia  
724.444.6944, wpmrm.org

This museum features a 40'x100' model railroad that represents the tracks between Pittsburgh and Cumberland, Maryland—forever locked in a summer 1952 setting—and will delight both the young and the young at heart. It also houses a collection of historical model train sets and railroad-related items, some of which date back to the early 20th century.

## SOUTH

## Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery

2999 Bethel Church Road, Bethel Park  
412.835.0405, bethelpresby.org

Founded in 1776, this cemetery is the final resting place of 14 Revolutionary War soldiers and the church is home to a treasure trove of records for those with family roots in the area doing genealogical research. The cemetery may be visited anytime, but for church records research you'll need an appointment.

## The Bost Building, Rivers of Steel

623 East Eighth Avenue, Homestead  
412.464.4020, riversofsteel.com

Rivers of Steel is comprised of five different attractions. One of them is the Bost Building, a National Historic Landmark. It was at the center of one of the most infamous disputes between labor and management in history, the Homestead Lockout and Strike of 1892. It culminated in a violent conflict, causing fatalities on both sides. The Bost Building now houses a visitors center and offices, and hosts exhibits on the region's industrial and cultural heritage. You may also want to head to The Pump House in Munhall, the site of the "Battle of Homestead."



## The Bradford House Museum and Whiskey Rebellion Education Center

175 South Main Street, Washington  
724.222.3604, bradfordhouse.org

Step back in time through this home that was completed in 1788 and was the residence of the family of David Bradford, a leader of the famous Whiskey Rebellion. A National Historic Landmark, it is furnished with period artifacts and holds special events throughout the year. Across the street from the house is the educational center, which documents the unique Western Pennsylvania history of the Whiskey Rebellion. There are artifacts from the early days of the whiskey making industry as well.

## Bridgeville Area Historical Society Museum

441 Station Street, Bridgeville  
412.221.4052, bridgevillehistory.org

This little museum was a train caboose in its former life, which makes it a delightful place for children to visit. But there's plenty for adults as well since the collection grows with constant donations from the surrounding area. There are lots of pieces related to early and mid-20th century area businesses and residents, school memorabilia, photos, maps and more.

## Dormont Historical Society Museum

Dormont Municipal Center,  
1444 Hillsdale Avenue, Dormont  
412.561.8900,  
facebook.com/DormontHistory

A true local museum, conveniently located on the ground floor of the municipal center, it includes exhibits of photos, documents, audio and visual recordings, and memorabilia focused on the history of Dormont, incorporated in 1909.

## Duncan & Miller Glass Museum

100 Ridge Avenue, Washington  
724.225.9950, duncan-miller.org

A beautiful collection of glass made between 1867 and 1955 by the Geo Duncan & Sons and Duncan & Miller Glass companies is displayed, as well as a showcase of the evolution and utility of glass from 1865 to the present. The museum is open April through November, or call for an appointment.





### The LeMoyné House

49 East Maiden Street, Washington  
724.225.6740, [wchspa.org/lemoyne-house](http://wchspa.org/lemoyne-house)

Built in 1812, the LeMoyné House is one of six NPS-recognized Underground Railroad sites in Pennsylvania and was a center of antislavery activity in the area. Physician Francis Julius LeMoyné was a fierce abolitionist, and is known also for being an advocate for the practice of cremation. Learn about his life and work, and an important part of local history, by touring this historical home.

### Mt. Lebanon History Center

794 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon  
412.329.8595, [lebohistory.org](http://lebohistory.org)

This museum always offers something new with rotating exhibits, and is in one of the most architecturally interesting buildings in Mt. Lebanon. The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon is also celebrating 25 years. The center holds programs and events, and offers a library of local documents for those wanting to research the history of the community.

### Oliver Miller Homestead

1 Stone Manse Drive, South Park  
412.835.1554, [olivermillerhomestead.org](http://olivermillerhomestead.org)

In 1772, Oliver Miller built a home on this site for his wife and nine children. Their house was also a makeshift church for the area before there was a church building. Sons of the family served in the Revolutionary War and were later involved in the Whiskey Rebellion. There are six rooms usually open to the public, often with demonstrations of spinning and weaving, and cooking on special event days. Be sure to visit the other buildings and gardens, including Emily's Garden, a woodland wildflower garden that's especially beautiful in early spring.

### Pennsylvania Trolley Museum

1 Electric Way, Washington  
724.228.9256, [pa-trolley.org](http://pa-trolley.org)

The streetcar, or trolley, was an important part of American history in developing cities, allowing individuals to travel to different parts of town for work. The Pennsylvania Trolley Museum

opened in February 1954 with just three trolleys. Today, it displays a collection of nearly 50 cars and welcomes more than 30,000 visitors each year for tours and special events. If you like trains, you'll love trolleys!

### Woodville (The John and Presley Neville House)

1375 Washington Pike, Bridgeville  
412.221.0348, [woodville-experience.org](http://woodville-experience.org)

Fans of the 18th century will love being immersed in this 1785 home of General John Neville, military officer, land speculator and tax collector. It's filled with period furnishings, and in addition to being one of the oldest surviving homes in southwestern Pennsylvania, it played an integral role in the Whiskey Rebellion of the 1790s. It operates from late March through early December with special events throughout the year.

### The Wright House & Museum of Western Expansion

815 Venetia Road, Peters Township  
724.348.9705,  
[peterscreekhistoricalsociety.org](http://peterscreekhistoricalsociety.org)

The Enoch Wright House is listed on the national, state and county registers of historical houses. Built in 1815, it is made of bricks that were formed and fired on-site and had 12 fireplaces, some of which have been reopened. Focused on the years 1760-1860, the museum rooms include a coal mining display, a Colonial Room, a Native American Room, and more. There is also a rebuilt log house likely from the 1780s. The Wright House is open for special events or may be toured by appointment.



## EAST

### The Big Mac 'Museum' at McDonald's

9061 Lincoln Highway, North Huntingdon  
724.863.9837

The inventor of the beloved Big Mac was a Uniontown native named Jim Delligatti, who opened his first McDonald's franchise in 1957. This McDonald's restaurant pays tribute to Delligatti with a bronze bust, memorabilia, and a timeline about how the famed sandwich—which struggled to catch on under various names—eventually became a staple. There are displays of vintage McDonald's toys and packaging as well. This mini museum can generally be visited anytime the McDonald's is open, but call to make sure.



### Blairsville Area Underground Railroad History Center

214 South East Lane, Blairsville  
724.599.8105,  
[undergroundrailroadblairsvillepa.org](http://undergroundrailroadblairsvillepa.org)

Many local residents were a strong force in the Underground Railroad (UGRR) movement to help enslaved people seeking freedom. This center is in the former Second Baptist Church, built in 1917, the oldest African American church in the borough. It is committed to preserving, promoting, and presenting the history of the Underground Railroad in the region. There are various events and tours, as well as a map and signage for a self-guided tour to see several UGRR-related sites in Blairsville.

### Braddock's Battlefield History Center

609 Sixth Street, North Braddock  
412.271.0800, [braddocksbattlefield.com](http://braddocksbattlefield.com)

This museum shines a light on George Washington's early career and the French & Indian War with genuine artifacts, period uniforms, and firearms. This was the site of the historic Battle of the Monongahela in 1755 ("Braddock's Defeat"), a turning point in Colonial America's history. This museum will give you a better understanding of this battle and its influence on the development of western Pennsylvania.

Continued on next page >

## The Carpenter Log House

Pierson Run Road, Plum  
412.350.4636 Opt. 2 (Boyce Park),  
plumhistory.org/LogHouse1.html

This rebuilt 1822 house is in Boyce Park and has some artifacts from the Carpenter family and furnishings from the 1800s through the early 1900s. The Allegheny Foothills Historical Society cares for the property, and guides help provide a glimpse of the early days of Plum.



## The Jimmy Stewart Museum

835 Philadelphia Street, Indiana  
724.349.6112, jimmy.org

Who doesn't love Jimmy Stewart? His everyman persona shines through in "It's a Wonderful Life," "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," and "Philadelphia Story," for which he garnered an Academy Award. Stewart grew up in Indiana and this museum has exhibits related to his Hollywood career, military service in World War II, and personal life with his beloved wife, Gloria, and their four children. It is a must-see for any Jimmy Stewart fan or classic film buff.

## Kerr Memorial Museum

402 Delaware Avenue, Oakmont  
412.826.9295, kerrmuseum.com

This stunning memorial home of family physician Dr. Thomas Kerr is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Commissioned in 1897, it is a classic example of Queen Anne style architecture and gives visitors the chance to experience what life was like for the middle class of the late 19th and early 20th century. Tours are by appointment only, and special events and tours are held periodically as well.

## The Living Dead Museum

200 Mall Circle Drive, Monroeville Mall  
724.513.8245, livingdeadmuseum.com

Another great museum for film buffs, The Living Dead Museum celebrates zombies in pop culture and cinema—including the original 1978 George Romero film "Dawn of the Dead," which

was partially filmed at the mall. There is a retail shop at the museum as well. Be sure to check to make sure that the museum is open before you go.

## McGinley House and McCully Log House

2381 McGinley Road, Monroeville  
For tours: 412.973.5313 or  
tours@monroevillehistorical.org,  
monroevillehistorical.org

This is a chance to see two historical homes at the same location! The McGinley House is a vernacular stone structure circa 1830 and has been furnished according to the time period. The McCully Log House sits on land that belonged to one of the area's original settlers and was built in the early 1800s. Both historical gems were slated for demolition at one time but thankfully they were restored, preserving them as an important part of the region's history for future generations.

## McKeesport Regional History & Heritage Center

1832 Arboretum Drive, McKeesport  
412.678.1832, mckeesportheritage.org

You might be surprised at the famous and interesting people who have been a part of McKeesport history. Helen Richey was the first female commercially licensed pilot and a record-breaking stunt pilot. McKeesport native Bette Ford was a New York model, actress and a professional bullfighter. The city was also host to a famous debate between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. If any of this surprises you, then you need to visit the museum! It preserves and presents the history of the Mon Valley, holds various events, and is located in the beautiful Renziehausen Park.

## National Museum of Broadcasting Site identified in East Pittsburgh

412.241.4508, nmbpitt.org

This museum now has a site planned for East Pittsburgh in a former Mellon Bank building. The location is close to the origins of broadcasting where KDKA launched over a century ago. The museum will include a 2,500-sq.-ft. room that will serve as the main exhibit hall. On Nov. 2, 1920, KDKA delivered the nation's first commercial radio broadcast, a term coined by Wilkinsburg's Frank Conrad. Pittsburgh was also a pioneer in other electrical and media innovation. To learn more about the important role our region played in the beginnings of this billion-

dollar industry, the website has a plethora of information. Be sure to watch the site for emerging details!

## Sampson/Clark Toll House & Schoolhouse and Hoey/Staymates Cabin

5332 West Pike Street  
and 4515 Roundtop Road, Export  
724.516.0126, murrysvillehistory.com

The toll house hosts an annual heritage festival, and a rebuilt colonial schoolhouse was recently added to the property. The 1758 cabin may have served as a rest stop for early settlers traveling west, and a "blockhouse" for defense against attacks. Check the website or contact the Murrysville Historical Preservation Society for events, open houses and tours at each site.

## Trundle Manor

7724 Juniata Street, Swissvale  
412.916.5544 (text), trundlemanor.com

This mansion of macabre is open by appointment and features stuffed animals (real ones that were once alive), a hidden laboratory, a coffin bed, extractions of various body parts (that we think were given up voluntarily) and more. This house makes "The Addams Family" seem tame by comparison. It is seriously filled with strange and interesting artifacts, and the hosts, Mr. Arm and Velda Von Minx, have a delightful sense of humor.

## The Westmoreland Museum of American Art

221 North Main Street, Greensburg  
724.837.1500, thewestmoreland.org

The Westmoreland is an ever-changing kaleidoscope that focuses solely on American art. As exhibits are rotated, along with traveling exhibits, there is always something new! For the 65th





anniversary of the museum opening, it will be presenting an exhibition of 65 artists from its collection.

## WEST

**The Civil War Room —  
Andrew Carnegie Free Library**  
300 Beechwood Avenue, Carnegie  
412.276.3456, [carnegiecarnegie.org](http://carnegiecarnegie.org)

The Thomas Espy Post No. 153 (called the Civil War Room) contains authentic uniforms, weapons and drums, photos and other artifacts. The room itself is quite historic, since it's one of the last surviving posts of the Civil War veterans organization known as The Grand Army of the Republic. The post was set up at the library in 1906, and there it has remained—a frozen capsule of a pivotal time in our history.



**The Dean Martin Room of the  
Jefferson County Historical  
Association Museum**  
426 Franklin Avenue, Steubenville, Ohio  
740.283.1133, [jeffcountyhistorical.org](http://jeffcountyhistorical.org)

Dean Martin was eventually a household name to all of America, but to Steubenville residents he was Dino Crocetti, son of Gaetano, a barber. This museum room has a variety of memorabilia, including record albums, photos of the Rat Pack, videos of “The Dean Martin Celebrity Roast” shows, a wedding gown made by his mother, Angela, who was a seamstress, and many other personal items of the legendary crooner. Be sure to contact the historical association in advance of visiting.

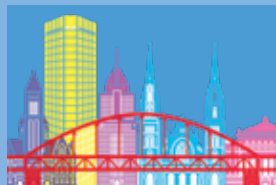
**Historical Society of Carnegie History  
Center and Honus Wagner Museum**  
1 West Main Street, Carnegie  
412.276.7447, [facebook.com/HistoricalSocietyofCarnegie](http://facebook.com/HistoricalSocietyofCarnegie)

For more than 30 years, this society has been preserving and presenting the history of Carnegie. There are three main permanent exhibits in the registered landmark building on Main Street: military heritage, with a focus on Vietnam POW Col. Robert Sawhill Jr.; Pittsburgh Pirates Hall of Famer and lifelong resident Honus Wagner; and a handcrafted diorama of Carnegie's Main Street of the 1940s and '50s. The society offers other exhibits and special events as well, along with extensive community and ancestry information.

**Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum**  
3021 Landis Street, Sheraden  
412.458.1355, [karpeles.com](http://karpeles.com)

This library museum has archives of more than 1 million historical documents! The collection rotates between its various locations. Among the items are the Peace Treaty of the War of 1812, The Ten

Continued on next page >



**HIDDEN-GEM MUSEUMS IN THE CITY** | Pittsburgh is known for its world-class museums—Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, The Andy Warhol Museum, August Wilson Center, Mattress Factory, Children's Museum, Carnegie Science Center, Frick Art and Historical Center, Cathedral of Learning, Fort Pitt Museum, Clemente Museum, Heinz History Center and many more—but here are some hidden and not-so-hidden gems that make our city's museum scene extra special!

**American Jewish Museum**  
5738 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh  
(Squirrel Hill)  
412.521.8010, [jccpgh.org](http://jccpgh.org)

**Bicycle Heaven**  
1800 Preble and Columbus Ave.,  
Pittsburgh (North Side)  
412.734.4034, [bicycleheaven.org](http://bicycleheaven.org)

**Center for PostNatural History**  
4913 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh (Garfield)  
[postnatural.org](http://postnatural.org)

**Johnny Angel's Ginchy Stuff Museum**  
1800 Preble Ave., Pittsburgh  
(North Side)  
412.322.1830, [ginchystuff.com](http://ginchystuff.com)

**Kelso Museum of Near Eastern  
Archaeology**  
616 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh  
(East Liberty)  
412.362.5610, [pts.edu/Museum](http://pts.edu/Museum)

**Moonshot Museum**  
1016 Lincoln Ave., Pittsburgh  
(North Side)  
412.314.4111, [moonshotmuseum.org](http://moonshotmuseum.org)

**Museum of Illusions**  
267 North Shore Dr., Pittsburgh  
(North Side)  
[moipittsburgh.com](http://moipittsburgh.com)

**Old Allegheny County Jail  
and Museum**  
440 Ross St., Downtown Pittsburgh  
412.471.5808 (for PHLF tours),  
[phlf.org](http://phlf.org)

**Photo Antiquities Museum**  
531 E. Ohio St., Pittsburgh (North Side)  
412.231.7881, [photoantiquities.org](http://photoantiquities.org)

**Pittsburgh Tattoo Art Museum**  
5413A Walnut St., Pittsburgh  
(Shadyside)  
[pittsburghtattooartmuseum.com](http://pittsburghtattooartmuseum.com)

**Saint Anthony Chapel**  
1700 Harpster St., Pittsburgh (Troy Hill)  
412.999.4401,  
[pghshrines.org/about-st-anthony-chapel](http://pghshrines.org/about-st-anthony-chapel)

**Soldiers & Sailors Museum**  
4141 5th Ave., Pittsburgh (Oakland)  
412.621.4253, [soldiersandsailorshall.org](http://soldiersandsailorshall.org)

**Troy Hill Art Houses**  
Rialto St. and Tours St., Pittsburgh  
(Troy Hill)  
[troyhillarthouses.com](http://troyhillarthouses.com)



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## COMMUNITY TREASURES

Commandments from the Gutenberg Bible, and a draft of part of the Emperor Concerto by Beethoven. There is also space for art exhibits. A special note for teachers: The Karpeles provides educational programs, exhibits and lectures for schools at all levels.

### **Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village**

401 Meadowcroft Road, Avella  
 724.587.3412,

[heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft](http://heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft)

Meadowcroft Rockshelter is a site of human habitation from 19,000 years ago, making it the oldest in North America! In addition to the archaeological dig site, there is a reconstructed Eastern Woodland Indian village of the 1570s, a 1770s trading post, and a 19th century village. Meadowcroft is open May through October.

### **Old Economy Village**

270 16th Street, Ambridge  
 724.266.4500, [oldeconomyvillage.org](http://oldeconomyvillage.org)

The eventual home of German Harmony Society immigrants who came to our area in 1805 seeking religious freedom and communal living, here you'll find an entire 18th century village of charming homes, a store and post office, a magnificent garden, a cabinet shop, a granary and even a wine cellar! See what led to their vision for a utopian, communal society and what brought it to its end. (Visitors may also want to plan a trip to the group's original settlement in Harmony, listed in the North section.)

### **Pinball PA Vintage Arcade and Museum**

2284 Brodhead Road,  
 Suite 10b, Aliquippa  
 412.423.8532,

[pinballpa.com](http://pinballpa.com)

This unique space offers a wide array of video games and pinball machines through the years set up to be "interactive exhibits," along with information on the development and growth of arcade games, their evolution into home gaming systems, and dismantled machines for exploring the science behind them.



### **Primrose School & Museum**

1 Primrose Road (along Fort Cherry Road),  
 McDonald

[facebook.com/primroseschoolandmuseum](https://facebook.com/primroseschoolandmuseum)

The Primrose School & Museum was formed to preserve this 1897 two-room schoolhouse. It allows visitors to see how children were educated in the early 20th century and has artifacts typical of the time period as well as historical photographs. There are open houses periodically or arrange a tour through the Facebook page.

### **Robin Hill Center and Coventry Log Cabin**

Robin Hill Park, 949 Thorn Run Road,  
 Coraopolis

412.262.1703 x404, [moonparks.org](http://moonparks.org)

Surrounded by a beautiful natural area of 53 acres, the Robin Hill Center is a 24-room Georgian home that was built in the 1920s by Francis and Mary Nimick for their family. Mary generously donated the home and its acreage to Moon Township, including the Robin Hill Carriage House (which is now a center for seniors) and the Fleur de Lune Garden, along with natural trails. The historical Coventry Log Cabin was built in 1825 and was the home of John Coventry, a Revolutionary War veteran. His family lived there for 50 years, then it was passed to another family and remained inhabited until 1975. It has been meticulously restored, log by log, to its original condition and includes period furniture.

### **Tuskegee Airmen Museum Room and Memorial**

Pittsburgh Airport, Concourse A,  
 1000 Airport Boulevard,  
 Moon Township; Memorial:  
 Cemetery Road, Sewickley  
[tuskegeewpa.org](http://tuskegeewpa.org)

Did you know there's a museum room at the airport honoring the Tuskegee Airmen from our region? The sponsoring nonprofit organization is dedicated to preserving the legacy of Western Pennsylvania Tuskegee Airmen—nearly 100 brave men and one trailblazing woman who helped defeat our enemies during World War II. The Tuskegee Airmen Memorial is located at Sewickley Cemetery, and is among the largest in the country. ■

**\*Please note:** Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this article. However, please verify locations, dates, hours and guidelines directly with the website and phone numbers provided before planning a visit!





## What is a “Senior Advisor”?

**W**hat is a “Senior Advisor”? We get that question here quite often. At Oasis Senior Advisors, because that could mean so many different things to people. In this article, we will explain and share what our business encompasses and how we help to serve our community.



My name is Ben Meyer and I own Oasis Senior Advisors of Southwest PA. We are a free service to seniors, families, and professionals in the area who are looking for help when it comes to senior living and resources for the elderly. Yes, you read it correctly, we are free to seniors and families. How is this? Well, when we refer a senior and family to a community

in the area, and then that resident moves in, the community provides the resources for our business. We pride ourselves on serving as your “senior advisor” as you navigate what can be a confusing world when exploring senior living options. To break things down, here are some of the most common questions we receive and ones that maybe have crossed your mind in conversation with family members:

### **Q: What is senior living?**

**A:** Senior living is any community that offers independent living, assisted living/personal care, or memory care for people living with dementia. Here in Western PA, we are blessed to have so many options to explore, all with different amenities.

### **Q: How does the business work?**

**A:** When we get a call from a senior or family looking for senior living options, we spend a great deal of time on that first call going over everything that is involved with your scenario. We talk about the care needs of the individual—how much or little do they need. We also talk about what part of town the family is in and what types of communities are in that area. Location is often a key factor with family wanting to be able to

visit frequently. Lastly, we will talk about the finances. Yes, we must talk about the money. We do this because of the way the state of Pennsylvania has set up reimbursement for Medicaid. One key thing to know about Pennsylvania is that the only place Medicaid will pay for room and care is a nursing home. In most other states, Medicaid will cover some to all of the costs of the assisted living resident. Not so in Pennsylvania—just something to consider.

### **Q: What happens after the initial phone consultation?**

**A:** Once we get all the information pulled together, we use our proprietary software called Oasis IQ™ to determine what the best community options are for that senior needing help. We send an email to the family with community options and the referred communities will get an email letting them know we are helping this family. We DO NOT send out contact information when notifying the communities. All communications go through our advisors and the communities are unable to reach out to families independently. This allows you as a family to discuss between each other first, and then decide what you think the best next steps might be.

From there, when a family is ready to tour communities, we will take care of scheduling tours and accompany you to each location. We see what the family sees, and hears what they hear, on the tours. That way, we can help families truly evaluate the community options because we are there with the family for the entire process.

In summary, we at Oasis Senior Advisors want to be your trusted advisor when it comes to senior living and resources. If you have any additional questions, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Again, we are FREE!





# Wag-Worthy Playgrounds!



This spring,  
let your furry  
friends run free  
(or for a small  
fee) in the many  
**off-leash dog  
parks** in and  
around your  
neighborhood.

BY KATHY RUDOLPH





## North

### Bellevue Dog Woods

Address: Bellevue Memorial Park,  
300 Bellevue Road, Bellevue  
Contact: [bellevuepa.org/parks](http://bellevuepa.org/parks),  
[facebook.com/bellevuedogwoods](https://facebook.com/bellevuedogwoods), or  
412.766.6164

The park features open areas for dogs to run and play, as well as naturally wooded areas, a separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.), a water feature and agility equipment. Donations and volunteerism are welcome. Visit the Facebook page for more information.

### Hartwood Acres

Address: 200 Hartwood Acres, Allison Park  
Contact: [alleghenycounty.us/parks](http://alleghenycounty.us/parks), or  
412.350.4636, Opt. 2

Near the Hartwood Acres amphitheater, this off-leash dog park is fenced and part of the stunning 629-acre county park—one of the largest and most spectacular former country estates in the region. Visit the website for information on amenities and rules.

### North Park

Address: Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park  
Contact: [alleghenycounty.us/parks](http://alleghenycounty.us/parks), or  
412.350.4636, Opt. 2

There are two rotating fenced-in, off-leash areas for people to relax and watch their dogs run and play. You can also enjoy many other parts of this beautiful 3,075-acre county park located in Hampton, McCandless and Pine townships. Visit the website for information on amenities and rules.

### Riding Meadow Park

Address: 900 Riding Meadow Road,  
Fox Chapel  
Contact: [fox-chapel.pa.us](http://fox-chapel.pa.us), or  
412.963.1100

Have a well-behaved dog that obeys voice commands? Then take a hike together on the off-leash area of this park that includes picturesque wooded trails and a stream. Call or visit the website for information on parking permits and other rules and regulations.

### Rotary Dog Park

Address: Cranberry Community Park,  
111 Ernie Mashuda Drive,  
Cranberry Township  
Contact: [cranberrytownship.org/1146/Rotary-Dog-Park](http://cranberrytownship.org/1146/Rotary-Dog-Park), or 724.779.4FUN (4386)

Within this lovely community park, a 4-acre dog park features separate off-leash running areas for large and small dogs, as well as a second fenced space for large dogs to enable rotation of play areas and

allow recovery from wear and tear. The park also includes water and disposable bags for cleanup. Visit the website for more information and rules.

### Sewickley Heights Borough Park

Address: Fern Hollow Road,  
Sewickley Heights  
Contact: [sewickleyheightsboro.com](http://sewickleyheightsboro.com), or  
412.741.5119

If your dog is well-behaved and obeys voice commands, this park offers wooded walking trails, streams and grassy areas that are ideal for you and your furry friend to hike, run and play. Visit the website for all rules and regulations.

## South

### Fairview Park Bark Park

Address: 310 Recreation Road,  
South Fayette  
Contact: [southfayettepa.com](http://southfayettepa.com), or  
412.221.8700

The 5-acre Bark Park has fencing and wooded paths in a natural environment with access to shade, benches, and water. It is accessible from the Mayview site expansion of Fairview Park. Visit the website for information on other features.

### Green Tree Borough Dog Park

Address: Greentree Road, Green Tree  
Contact: [greentreeboro.com](http://greentreeboro.com), or  
412.921.1110

This dog park is available to Green Tree residents only and is located behind the Point Park Ball Field in a .75-acre area with trees, benches, grass and water fountains. Dogs must pass a free behavior study at

Camp Bow Wow on Trumbull Dr. and have up-to-date immunizations. A \$20 deposit for fob entry is required and will be returned when the fob is returned to the borough office. Visit the website for more information.

### Mingo Creek Dog Park

Address: Mingo Creek Road and  
Chapel Hill Road, Finleyville  
Contact: [washingtoncopa.gov](http://washingtoncopa.gov), or  
724.228.6867

A large off-leash area includes wooded trails and open spaces as part of this expansive 2,600-acre park. Visit the website for more information on amenities and other details.

### South Park Dog Park

Address: 1613 Maple Springs Drive,  
South Park  
Contact: [alleghenycounty.us](http://alleghenycounty.us), or  
412.350.4636, Opt. 2

Part of the stunning 2,000-acre county park, this fenced-in, off-leash area is a great place for watching your dog play. Visit the website for more information, including a second location on McCorkle Road to allow for rotation of play areas.

### South Side Dog Park

Address: South Side Riverfront Park,  
South 18th Street alongside the  
Monongahela River, Pittsburgh  
(South Side)  
Contact: [pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/dog-parks](http://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/dog-parks), or 412.255.2539

There is an Off-Leash Exercise Area in this beautiful riverfront city park that you can enjoy with your furry family member! The Three Rivers Heritage Trail there is

Continued on next page >



## Wag-Worthy Playgrounds

popular for walking, biking, and running. Check the website for more information and rules. There's also some play space for dogs at the nearby SouthSide Works.

### West Mifflin Dog Park

Address: Glenny Lane Extension, West Mifflin  
Contact: westmifflinborough.com, or 412.466.8170

A unique space that includes two large fenced areas covering nearly 40,000 square feet for off-leash play, including some equipment, seating and a small pavilion. See the website for more details.

### East

#### Boyce Park Dog Park

Address: 410 New Texas Road (near the basketball courts), Plum  
Contact: alleghenycounty.us/parks, or 412.350.4636, Opt. 2

A large fenced-in area for furry friends to run and play. There is a second area nearby for rotation. Visit the website for more information or find a group page on Facebook.

#### Forest Hills Dog Park

Address: Forest Hills Park, Ardmore Boulevard and Braddock Road, Forest Hills  
Contact: foresthillspa.org/dog-park, or 412.351.7330

Check out this dog park that features small and large dog areas situated within the main park. Parking is available at the foot of the hill off of Ardmore or at the top of the hill by the pool. Visit the website for more information.

#### Franklin Dog Park at Twin Lakes Park

Address: Across from 1087 Georges Station Road, Greensburg  
Contact: co.westmoreland.pa.us/775/Franklin-Dog-Park, or 724.830.3950

This park has three separate fenced-in areas for people to let their dogs run and play, with two open at a time to allow for rotation. One area is designated for small dogs and the other for larger dogs. The park has a 6-foot chain-link fence, and there is a double-gated entrance system. There are also water fountains for both dogs and people. Visit the website for more rules and helpful hints before heading out.



### Frick Park

Address: Upper Frick Park, Beechwood Boulevard and Nicholson Street, Pittsburgh (Squirrel Hill)  
Contact: pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/dog-parks, or 412.255.2539

Off-Leash Exercise Areas at some of Pittsburgh's city parks allow dog socializing and unhindered play. There are two areas in Frick Park, divided by size of dog, then you can check out other parts of the large park that has various trails and amenities. Visit the website for more information.

### Monroeville Dog Park

Address: Heritage Park, 2364 Saunders Station Road, Monroeville  
Contact: monroeville.pa.us, or 412.856.1006

This dog park is a large, fenced-in area with plenty of trees, water fountains for dogs and humans, and a bag dispenser to make it easy for the humans to clean up. Visit the website for more information.

### Paws on the Run Dog Park

Address: Murrys ville Community Park, intersection of Wiestertown Road and Farm Road, Murrys ville  
Contact: murrysvilletrailalliance.org/paws-run-dog-park, or murrysvilletrailalliance@gmail.com

The dog park in Murrys ville Community Park offers separate fenced areas for large and small dogs, trees, seasonal wading pools and bags for waste. Donations and volunteerism are welcome. Visit the website for more information.

### Penn Hills Dog Park

Address: 754 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills  
Contact: pennhills.org, or 412.798.2147

Generally opens April 1 after a winter closure, and don't forget to take water for your furry friend when visiting this fun off-leash dog park. Fenced in with grassy areas, a bench and shady trees, it's the perfect spot for exercise. Visit the website for more information or find its group page on Facebook.

### White Oak Park

Address: Dog park is located off White Oak Park Road, White Oak  
Contact: alleghenycounty.us/parks, or 412.350.4636, Opt. 2

The stunning 810-acre White Oak Park has an off-leash fenced area for your best friend to enjoy a play date or just some exercise! Visit the website for more details including rules to follow.

### West

#### The Black Dog Wine Company Dog Park at Moon Park

Address: 1845 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township  
Contact: moonparks.org, or 412.262.1703 x401

Check out this dog park that opened in the summer of 2023! It includes shade structures, benches, picnic tables and agility equipment. Donations are welcome to support the addition of more amenities. The park has been closed on Mondays and Tuesdays for maintenance. Visit the website for the current schedule and other details.

### Carnegie Dog Park

Address: 200 Cooks Lane, Carnegie  
Contact: carnegieborough.com/parks.html, or 412.276.1414

Enjoy separate grassy, fenced-in, off-leash dog areas for large and small dogs, benches and seasonal water within the beautiful 35-acre Carnegie Municipal Park. Visit the website for more information on all of the amenities and other details.

### Donaldson Community Park Dog Park

Address: 590 Donaldson Road, Oakdale  
Contact: north-fayette.com/199/Recreation, or 724.307.3725

This is a fenced-in open area for off-leash fun. It may be closed intermittently in the spring for reseeding. A dog waste disposal station is located at the entrance to the park. Dogs must be leashed at all times outside of the dog park. Visit the website for more information.







### Settlers Cabin Park

Address: 1225 Greer Road, Oakdale (Dog park located off Te Pee Dr.)

Contact: [alleghenycounty.us/parks](http://alleghenycounty.us/parks), or 412.350.4636, Opt. 2

Head to Settlers Cabin for a grassy off-leash fenced area surrounded by trees. Visit the website for more information including the rules for county dog parks.

### Off-Leash Dog Parks for a Small Fee 🐾

#### Animal Friends Play Yard Rental

Address: 562 Camp Horne Road, Ohio Township

Contact: [thinkingoutsidethecage.org](http://thinkingoutsidethecage.org), or 412.847.7035

The Animal Friends' Play Yard is available to rent for people and their pooches to have one-on-one, off-leash fun! Advance rental and confirmation are required. Donations and volunteerism are welcome. Visit the website for more details on requirements, rules and regulations.

#### Aspinwall Dog Park

Address: Aspinwall Recreation Area, Field Avenue, Aspinwall

Contact: [aspinwallpa.com](http://aspinwallpa.com), or 412.781.0213

A section of the recreation area is available as a dog park from November until the end of March for those who purchase a permit. Visit the website for more information and to buy the annual permit.

#### The Indoor Dog Park Cranberry

Address: 2714 Rochester Road, Cranberry Township

Contact: [theindoordogpark.org](http://theindoordogpark.org), or [info@theindoordogpark.org](mailto:info@theindoordogpark.org)

This park is 20,000 square feet of turf for your dog to run and play. It includes agility equipment, toys and a dedicated small dog area. Members have unlimited access; others need to schedule their play visits. Check the website for fees, requirements and other details.

#### Lucky Paws Dog Park and Pool

Address: 2273 Lovi Road, Freedom

Contact: [luckypawsresort.com](http://luckypawsresort.com), or 724.728.1484

This indoor and outdoor park offers year-round enjoyment for you and your dog. Reservations are recommended, and private visits can be scheduled. Visit the website for more information, including requirements, rules, regulations and fees.

#### Misty Pines Dog Park


Address: 2523 Wexford Bayne Road, Sewickley

Contact: [mistypinespetcompany.com/dog-park](http://mistypinespetcompany.com/dog-park), or 412.364.4122

The park welcomes you and your dog to run and play in the fenced-in playground, swim in the pond, and hike the wooded trails. There are 25 acres of dog park grounds to enjoy, and the agility yard is split into sections by age and size. Visit the website for information on requirements and rates. ■

*Didn't see your favorite dog park listed? Email [editors@icmags.com](mailto:editors@icmags.com) with the information and we'll add it to our list.*


**\*Please note:** Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this article. However, please verify locations, dates, hours and guidelines directly with the website and phone numbers provided before planning a visit!




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Overbrook Pointe

## St. John Community Opens New Apartments: ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

With the completion of St. John Community initiative, middle-income seniors now have an affordable, all-inclusive opportunity to live in a continuing care retirement community with all the amenities of home.

"It felt like home to me," said Mary Ackerman, who recently moved into The Residence at St. John from another community to be closer to her children and 11 grandchildren.

It has been a little more than a year since the first shovel broke ground to expand residential and personal care living options at the St. John Community. The project includes a new and modern personal care neighborhood—Edgewood Grove—built on a foundation of quality care. It also created 27 new residential living apartments—The Residence at St. John.

The Residence at St. John offers one-bedroom, independent living apartments equipped with a well-appointed kitchen, laundry, walk-in showers, and ample closet and storage



The Residence at St. John

RoseCrest Assisted Living



spaces. Other amenities include a library, lounges, fitness room and chef-prepared meals for those who choose to dine in. The Residence at St. John is located in the quaint borough of Mars, with easy access to places of worship, shopping, restaurants, banks, pharmacies and more.

"I'm starting a new phase in my life," said Ackerman. "I don't have to do housekeeping; there is no cooking, no food shopping. It's great!"

The absence of housing for middle-income seniors prompted Lutheran SeniorLife to launch a new growth initiative. "As a result of the initiative, we successfully expanded our existing housing opportunities for those seeking residential living and personal care options," said David Fenoglietto, president and CEO of Lutheran SeniorLife. "Our new apartments and supportive programs fill an unmet need in our community."

One of the first residents to move into Edgewood Grove, personal care is 90-year-old, Alice Vogel, the grandmother of Samantha Rapuk, executive director of the St. John Community. "It's a real blessing to have my grandma so close to me," explained Rapuk. "We have such a close bond and I know she is being cared for by the best team."

The St. John Community is a continuing care community, and includes The Residence at St. John and Overbrook Pointe, residential living, Edgewood Grove, personal care, RoseCrest, assisted living with memory care, and St. John Specialty Care, skilled nursing. To schedule a tour, call 724.742.2249, or to learn more about Lutheran SeniorLife, visit [lutheranseniorlife.org](http://lutheranseniorlife.org).



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# HOME & GARDEN RENOVATION GUIDE

Spring 2024

BY MANDIE GIAMBRONI



If you're looking to move (or stay and improve), here are some of the best home improvement and renovation projects for the spring.

Ever feel like the grass is always greener someplace else? If your family is growing or you are a recent empty nester, a new home may be in your future. But others' grass might not actually be greener—the real problem may just be that your grass needs some TLC.

Your home is most likely the largest investment you'll ever make. It's the place where you make most of your memories. Although many improvements are made to increase the functionality and comfort of your home, others are worthwhile investments that can translate to a higher resale value when the time comes to sell your home.

Whether you're ready for a new home or to revamp your current residence to better fit your lifestyle, the options are endless. Be sure to do your research to make the most of your next move.

Continued on next page >

## 2024 INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS

Add your personal style to these design trends to bring beauty to your home.

**Love the Light.** Natural light never goes out of style. If your home boasts the beautiful rays of the sun, be thankful and let it shine.

If you're in a more wooded area or lack windows, there are options to brighten up the spaces where you need it most. Kitchens are often a room for homeowners to enjoy extra light. Use light paint and cabinet colors and reflective

materials to catch any brightness that is shining through or to create the appearance of light.

**Hearth of the Home.** Spaces are being built to keep the family close. Kitchens include seating for the family at the counter or island, and family rooms are including space for everyone. While inclusion is key, balance comfort and style with cozy furniture pieces and sleek design choices. Many pet lovers are even keeping their four-pawed family members in mind, designing built-in feeding stations in newly designed kitchen islands, keeping bowls off the floor and tripping hazards at bay.

**Sustainability.** Our families' future may seem far away, but what we do now will impact how our kids, our kids' kids, and those beyond will live. Sustainability is on the minds of companies across the world, aiming to provide consumers with eco-friendly options for everything from flooring and cabinets to furniture and countertops. Keep environmental impact in mind when choosing what you put in your home. Many showrooms are now offering ex-showroom designs for sale—a win-win for cost savings and saving the environment.



## A Few Key Upgrades Can Really Pay Off

Pittsburgh is considered one of the most affordable U.S. metro areas to buy a home, according to the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index. In addition, millennials—falling in the prime first-time homebuying age of mid-20s to late 30s—are the largest generation in America and looking to make their next move with growing families. If you're planning to sell your home now or in the not-too-distant future, you might want to check out the following upgrades that can help make your house more attractive to potential buyers.

## Adding Square Footage or the Appearance of More Space

Many companies are offering remote work opportunities, reaffirming the need for a home office—a room that often went unused prior to 2020. But adding square footage of any kind is looked at as an upgrade. There may be unused or misused space just under your nose!

- **Create home office space.** A dedicated space for working could prove valuable for any number of buyers. Whether it's a family with a parent(s) working from home, or a family with kids who could use the space for virtual learning, the area could function in a variety of different ways. A home office could also be used for hobbies. This versatile room gives buyers space for their specific needs.
- **Spruce up or add outdoor entertaining space.** The percentage of homes with patio space is on the rise, proving that an outdoor entertainment area is in high demand. Whether you have a little space or a lot, the opportunity to tidy up outside could pay off.





Having your outdoor space set up to give potential buyers an idea of what it could be may be a selling point.

- **Finish your basement.** Basement space isn't just for storage and should be taken full advantage of if you're looking to sell. Even just adding insulation, drywall, and flooring to create a finished look could interest buyers. Unfinished rooms may look like more work to potential buyers, so putting some funds toward finishing them prior to placing your home on the market may be a good investment.

## Lush Landscapes

If you've ever attempted to transform your backyard into a beautifully designed paradise, then you have probably planted, trimmed, and dug your way into a few minor frustrations along the way. While good landscaping can vary by degrees, including budget, skills and climate, there are a few easy things you can do to be proud of your landscaping without paying an expert. The following tips will guide you on the right path to do-it-yourself landscaping:

- **Always layer your planting beds.** Layering in three rows, begin with your tallest plants in the back row, next tallest in the middle and shortest plants in the front. And don't just plant one bed—put another elsewhere in your yard to help provide a sense of harmony.
- **Calm your yard with water features.** Providing focal points in your landscaping is a must, and one great way to do it is incorporating water features such as ponds and simple waterfalls. They both look appealing and add an attractive element to your yard—the calming sounds of moving water.
- **Utilize retaining walls.** If you are planning on protecting the fragile landscaping work around your home, it's imperative to construct a strong retaining wall. Erosion-prone areas in your

yard will benefit greatly by incorporating segmental retaining walls constructed from concrete masonry. Using concrete not only provides the best value for the investment, but also delivers superior design flexibility and aesthetic appeal to any landscape.

- **When planting flowers, go with annuals.** To have a continuous sense of color throughout your yard, plant annual flowers alongside your favorite perennials. Research and lay out creative flower combinations that make use of both kinds of flowers for lasting beauty.
- **Think year-round.** One of the biggest mistakes a homeowner can make is only providing one or two seasons' worth of eye-catching landscaping. Plan for having plentiful trees and shrubs during the springtime, fall foliage during autumn months, and good, visually interesting plant life in the winter, such as holly shrubs or bayberry bushes.

## Home Sweet Office

Are you one of those lucky individuals able to work from home? The world just seems like a nicer place when you're dressed in your pajamas, doesn't it? But work is still work. You need a place that's organized, designed well, and in which you feel comfortable. Chances are, you may also need a degree of privacy to do your best work.

One of the most overlooked factors in productivity is lighting. Many studies demonstrate that natural lighting is best whenever possible, and results in more productivity among workers and a more positive attitude toward the work itself. Lighting can have a profound effect on your mood and can even influence your hormones. A good overview of this subject is provided by Andrew Jensen, a business growth, efficiency and marketing consultant, at [andrewjensen.net](http://andrewjensen.net).

If placing your home office in an area with windows is not possible, try the soft lighting of a lamp instead, and try to avoid harsh fluorescents. Adding a silk plant or two, along with a picture of the outdoors, will help transform a windowless area into a more inviting space. Warm colors like reds, yellows and orange will also help warm up an otherwise dark office area such as a basement.

Next, you'll want to design your workspace with cabinetry where office supplies and files can be tucked neatly out of sight. Shelving that is custom designed for the way you work can transform even a tiny space into an efficient work area. Having cabinets and shelves that are suited to your exact purpose will eliminate a great deal of frustration and overwhelming feelings of disorganization. A designer and expert carpenter can help you get the most from your workspace.

Just because you don't have an entire room in your house for a home office doesn't mean you can't have a dedicated workspace. Even a closet can be transformed into a workspace with the right planning, and the whole "office" can be put away at day's end by simply closing the closet door.

If you have even less space to work with, try a wall-mounted desk that can be extended when in use and collapsed flush with the wall when it's not. Cubby holes built into the interior wall area

Continued on next page >



## HIT THE ROOF

A new roof can mean many different things to many different people. Some get a new roof out of necessity—the roof is damaged and old and simply needs replacement. Others are looking for an aesthetic update to the exterior of their home: think cool metal roof. No matter the reason, spring is the perfect time to “raise the roof” and bring in something new.

Replacing your roof has several benefits other than the obvious curb appeal. A new roof improves your home's efficiency, providing savings on heating and cooling costs. There are even special coatings that are Energy Star certified to reflect more of the sun's rays and lower the amount of energy needed to cool your home.

Whatever shape your roof is in, it's good to have an inspection done by professionals each year. They can also do routine maintenance to extend the life of your roof and make repairs if there are loose or missing shingles. Depending on the quality of materials, roofs typically last anywhere from 10 to 50 years, so find a local roofing company you can get to know and trust to help you maintain the literal roof over your head!



can also provide places for storage in a tight space. A creative builder can help you make the most of your available space.

If your work area is not separated from the rest of your home and building a wall is not an option, there are still attractive ways to define your space. For example, tall wooden shutters can be linked together with hinges and painted any color to create a private area. Though not soundproof, they can create an intimate atmosphere of privacy when needed for yourself or for seeing clients. Tall silk plants, such as a series of ficus trees, can also be used to divide the space.

Don't skimp on your office chair! It's likely a place where you will be sitting for several hours every single day. Make sure it's comfortable and provides plenty of lumbar support, in addition to being an attractive addition to your office. Visit [spine-health.com](http://spine-health.com) for some helpful suggestions on choosing the right chair that will work best for you.

## Decked Out

One way to add living space to your home is the addition of an outdoor deck or patio. Having a great outdoor space is like adding an extra room to your house. It can be enjoyed by the whole family or experienced in quiet solitude as a retreat to the zen of outdoor living.

If you like to entertain, then an outdoor space is a must. Guests can spill out onto the patio, extending your home to allow more freedom for guests to mingle both inside and out.

Though the words “patio” and “deck” are often used interchangeably, there is a difference. A patio is generally constructed of stone pavers, tile or a simple concrete foundation that sits squarely on the ground. Decks are usually made of wood, PVC (also called vinyl) or composite, which has wood content that has been encapsulated in a PVC wrap. Decks can either be ground level or elevated. When considering which option is best for you, you'll want to look at the costs and which one works well with the style of your home. The good news is that regardless of the option you choose, you'll get a positive return on your investment—somewhere between 30 and 75 percent.

For a wood frame house, wooden, composite or PVC decks can match the trim of the home. Since wood can be painted, a wooden deck offers the most color options, however it will also require frequent repainting. Both PVC and composite decks are available in a wide range of earth tones to match your home's style. Experts say there are cost differences, but PVC and composite decks require less maintenance in the long run.



The costs of materials for a deck have risen dramatically over the past few years, running anywhere between \$15 and \$35 per square foot depending on the type of material. Wooden decks are attractive, but they do require more maintenance and will have to be resealed every few years to give them maximum life. Both PVC and composite decks require significantly less work but aren't entirely hassle-free. You should be sure to power-wash your deck for cleaning, with frequency depending on location. If the deck is adjacent to trees and shrubbery, leaves and pollen will settle on the frame, so washing is required to keep it looking sharp.

If your home is made of stone, you may opt for a patio that is a continuation of the stone look, but this also works well with a wood frame or brick home. Patios work best in yards that are level, while a deck can be placed pretty much anywhere, including a hilly or uneven lawn.

Homeowners are especially keen to add a fire feature to their outdoor area, functioning as a gathering point for both family and guests. Traditional wood-burning fireplaces not only add physical warmth and beauty, but emotional warmth as well. Contemporary homeowners are opting for very modern linear gas fireplaces, with smooth, clean lines to mirror the style of their home.

For those who don't have the space for a fireplace, fire pits or fire tables make a great feature, with some creating a beautiful flame that glows through crystal rock. Tables are available in three different heights, with a lower coffee-table height, dining table, and bar height. Homeowners also have the option of selecting wood- or gas-burning fire pits.

## The Great Outdoors

When the summer heats up, the prospect of slow-cooking a roast or searing some ribs is just not as appealing when you know it's going to heat up your house and drive up your air-conditioning bill. Take a tip from our pioneer ancestors who baked their bread and cooked their meats outdoors to maintain a cool house. This simple idea can really help keep your home comfortable during the dog days of summer, while saving you money on energy costs.

With an outdoor oven and grill, barbecues can be a spontaneous dinner idea rather than a major event that must be planned days in advance. The grilling process gives steaks, chicken, fish and pork a wonderful smoked flavor, while reducing the overall fat content.

And it's not just meats that can benefit from grilling. Bell peppers, onions, zucchini and tons of other vegetables take on a wonderful flavor when tossed lightly with olive oil, wrapped in foil and cooked on a grill.

With an outdoor kitchen, grilling is not just for summer either. Having a cover for rainy days and outdoor heating available, it can be done virtually year-round. Although just a simple oven and grill can change the way you live, a sink with running water and a fridge can really make cooking outdoors convenient.

For entertaining, the outdoor kitchen offers a way to spend time with your guests while preparing the meal. There's also an entire line of in-ground sound equipment and specially made outdoor TVs. The televisions are completely waterproof, and

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## Make Your Bathroom a Great Escape

Though your bathroom may not spring to mind as the place to hold your next cocktail party, with the right accoutrements your bath can be a great place to hang out and enjoy life. And if you live with family members, it may be the only place in your house where you can truly be alone for a bit.

Besides just being a place to “get ready” to meet the day, it’s also a relaxing space to recharge your batteries after a long week at work. Hydrotherapy is one of the best ways to relieve stress and help tired, overworked muscles. With tons of specialized showerheads, you can have everything from the sprinkle of a gentle rain to an invigorating massage to bring your body back to center. And a nice relaxing bath in a soaker tub can make the world go away for a while.

Does all this sound like a fantasy? Maybe not. You may be able to make updates to your bath for less than you might expect.

If a homeowner is just updating and not moving plumbing, heating ducts and electricity, the makeover can start at around \$10,000. And the choices for today’s bath are incredibly enticing. Many homeowners are opting for larger showers that will not only get you clean but can also bathe you in LED lighting that changes colors to suit your mood. You can also enjoy your favorite music in the shower to either calm you down after a stressful day or pep you up for the daily routine.

Vanities and bath cabinetry have also upgraded in style and functionality. Vanities are no longer empty-shell cabinets that open to a cavernous interior with little customization. Current options for drawers and cabinets include specialized areas for putting your blow dryer neatly away and stackable storage options for all of the essentials. And while you’re standing in front of that vanity, you can watch TV in the mirror! Technology allows your favorite TV program to be projected onto the mirror, so you can keep up with the latest baseball scores or check the weather before going out.

Slate and marble tile are always elegant options for bathrooms, but one of the latest trends in baths are porcelain tiles that mimic wood. These tiles come in sizes up to 48” and can be laid to look like natural woodgrain, without the worry of water damage. The woodgrain appearance can really warm up the bathroom.

And speaking of warm—your toilet can be warm too! Homeowners can opt for a “throne” with a retractable base that comes out and heats your feet, as well as the seat of the toilet. And touchless flushing helps prevent the spread of germs among your family, along with a bidet, which ensures a much cleaner experience.

You spend so much time in your bathroom every day you owe it to yourself to make it a more enjoyable place. And, according to hgtv.com, bath remodels can offer a return on investment of more than 100 percent!





## Refresh the Hub of Your Home

Whether your cooking style is chicken cordon bleu or just some great pad thai from the corner restaurant, you need a place to prepare your meals that's fun, organized and feels like home. Regardless of lifestyle, you'll probably spend a significant amount of time each day in your kitchen.

Though it's a substantial investment to update a kitchen, it's a worthwhile endeavor from both a personal standpoint and a financial one. And, like bathrooms, hgtv.com estimates that a kitchen remodel can offer returns that are upwards of 100 percent.

Most kitchen remodels start around \$25,000, and on average will range up to about \$50,000. You can give your kitchen a whole new look in any style, from ultra-contemporary to French country, in this price range. Your designer and builder can use computer-aided design to help you envision your dream.

Some trends in the kitchen include spacious farm sinks that offer tons of space for food prep. Clean, white subway tile can match virtually any decor, making it a popular choice for backsplashes. Recycled glass tiles can be found in any color for a look that's great for your kitchen and great for the environment as well. Mosaic tiles are frequently used and can be laid in customized patterns for a uniquely personal look.

Although cherry wood cabinets are classic, white cabinets are also popular. Cherry will give your kitchen a warm feel, while white cabinets will brighten the space and have a clean appearance.

As for flooring, experts say you can't go wrong with natural stone, and travertine is still popular. After the stone is sealed, it's an easy-care option for homeowners and offers a lot of longevity.

It's not just about the look you want to achieve in your kitchen, it's also about the way it makes you, your family and your friends feel when you're there. ■

## SPRING CLEANING LIST

As the final snowflakes melt away, it's time to start thinking spring. Most of us start our spring cleaning checklist by sweeping out the garage or uncovering stored patio furniture. But the real cleaning should start from the inside. It is critical to give attention to heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC), to ensure comfort inside your home. Follow the checklist below to give your home the boost it needs before spring sets in.

- Check and replace filters. Changing the filters in your furnace and air conditioner about every three months (depending on your filter type) keeps the air in your home clean and allows for your system to continue to run efficiently. Be sure to first turn off equipment before replacing anything.
- Dust and wash bathroom fans. Clean exhaust fans help with bathroom odor and keep moisture out, guarding against mold and mildew. To clean, remove the bathroom fan cover from the ceiling and wash with warm, soapy water and allow to dry completely. Be sure the electricity to the fan is off before you dust the fan blades.
- Drain and air-out the dehumidifier. Dehumidifiers have several health benefits for your family, including reducing allergens such as dust mites, mold and mildew. Empty and clean the water collection tank with warm, soapy water and vacuum the intake and exhaust grills to keep your dehumidifier running clean.
- Remove plants around the air-conditioning unit. Allow for maximum airflow around your air conditioner unit by clearing any encroaching weeds or plants, keeping a two-foot radius around the system.
- Install a programmable thermostat. If you're in the market for a new thermostat, consider a programmable one. These thermostats increase your home's efficiency and offer cost savings through adjustable timing and consistent temperatures throughout the house, optimizing your HVAC system.

If all else fails, put your trust in the hands of the professionals. They'll ensure that your HVAC system is ready for spring.



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## Pine-Richland Named Pennsylvania Communication Association's William S. Tacey High School of the Year

Pine-Richland High School was named the Pennsylvania Communication Association's William S. Tacey High School of the Year for its dedication to the Forensics Speech and Debate team and for providing a flourishing legacy of effective communicators, opportunities and resources for students. Pine-Richland High School also earned AP Gold Honor Roll Recognition for the 2022-2023 school year. Only 3 percent of eligible schools in Pennsylvania, and only two other schools in Western Pennsylvania, earned this designation. The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness.



## Pine-Richland HS on KD Quiz

On Nov. 1, seniors Avyu Nagrath and Michael Lattari (captain) and junior Charlie Ozelski represented Pine-Richland High School on KD Quiz, formerly known as Hometown High Q, defeating teams from Thomas Jefferson and Upper Saint Clair with 315 points.

*In early December, students from schools throughout western Pennsylvania and Ohio participated in the 2023-2024 DMAC 48-Hour Film Competition, sponsored by Robert Morris University. The competition required students to write, shoot and edit a video in only 48 hours. The video also required a prop, character and genre. Ninth-graders Madison Began, Piper Brooks and Amelia Doughty and eighth-grader Audra Farrar won the award for Best Editing for their video Cindy Jane. Trophies will be presented at the DMAC Spring Festival April 18 at the Robert Morris University UPMC Events Center.*



*l to r: Macy, Liam, Owen and assistant principal Jake Cawley*

On Nov. 1, seniors Macy Hayes, Liam Francis and Owen Russell were recognized by Rich-Mar Rotary as Students of the Month for community service and academic achievement.

## Tisha Joshi Earns Highest Score in State

For the second straight year, eighth grader Tisha Joshi earned the highest score in the state of Pennsylvania on a Level 5 practical piano performance examination administered by the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Ontario. The nationally standardized piano examination requires students to memorize three pieces of solo piano repertoire from different time periods, play technical requirements such as scales and etudes, sight read and also tests ear training. Tisha will receive a certificate of excellence from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto for earning the highest score in the state of Pennsylvania for her level.



## Aiden Ro Earns Two Awards for His Volunteer Efforts

Eden Hall sixth grader Aiden Ro was recognized in December for volunteer service, earning both the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award and the Korean War Veterans Association of Western

PA Outstanding Volunteer Service Certificate for his volunteer efforts. Throughout the last year, Aiden has volunteered 137 hours, cleaning the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Pittsburgh, playing the saxophone in numerous performances for disabled and Korean War veterans and volunteering at many community events.



## Students Selected to Participate in District and Regional Music Events

Several Pine-Richland students were selected to participate in PMEA district and regional music events this fall and winter. Students earn their spot in these prestigious concerts and festivals through a competitive audition process. Sophomore Ryan Noir represented Pine-Richland High School in the PMEA District 1 Honors Band the weekend of Nov. 17 at North Hills Middle School. Ryan, along with juniors Lilliana Bogle and Will Tamburri, and sophomore Jiwon Lee were selected to perform at the PMEA District Band West Festival Jan. 27-29 at Duquesne University. Junior Ryan Kim and sophomore Morgan Radi represented Pine-Richland High School at the PMEA Honors String Orchestra Festival the weekend of Nov. 17 at Mt. Lebanon High School. Both Ryan and Morgan were selected to participate in PMEA District 1 Senior High Orchestra in February. Seniors Chloe Chiang, Lumi Foster, and Owen Russell, junior Mackenzie Mercuri, and sophomores Brooke Deegan, Sophia Priore, and Kate Rickard were selected to the PMEA District Choir Festival to be held at Canon McMillan in late January.

Eleven Pine-Richland High School students were selected following a competitive audition to perform with the Allegheny Valley Honors Band on Jan. 5 at Hampton High School: senior Regis Welsh; juniors Elaina Anderson, Thomas DeVito, Sydney Rovnan and Will Tamburri; sophomores Ashlyn Casale, Jiwon Lee and Ryan Noir; and ninth-graders Chase Bisti, Alex Goss and Cody Leeper.



## Signing Day

On Nov. 8, six Pine-Richland High School seniors signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level: Mackenzie Gillis, softball, Mercyhurst University; Jocelyn Langer, softball, Millersville University; Izzy Sulesky, softball, Susquehanna University; Ashley Woodward, lacrosse, Mercyhurst University; Cooper Zancosky, lacrosse, Oberlin College; and Madison Zavasky, basketball, Indiana University of Pennsylvania. On Dec. 20, senior Ryan Cory committed to play football at the University of Wisconsin.



Junior Will Hilton competed in the PIAA 3A Golf Championship at Penn State Oct. 16-17. Ninth grader Caroline Prisk competed in the PIAA Girls' Tennis Singles Championship on Nov. 3. Sophomore Lucas Thompson competed in the PIAA Cross Country State Championship on Nov. 4.

*l to r: coach Andy Dugger, Will Hilton and coach Jeff Seybert*



## Field Hockey Team Wins Fifth Straight WPIAL Class 3A Title

On Nov. 4, the Field Hockey team won its fifth straight WPIAL Class 3A title, defeating Peters Township in overtime. Junior Georgia Rottinghaus was named the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Field Hockey Player of the Year.

*Pine-Richland High School's Competitive Spirit team competed in the 2024 WPIAL Competitive Spirit Championship at Chartiers Valley High School on January 6 and earned a bid to the PIAA State Championship January 26 and 27 in Hershey.*



# IN THE *Burgh*



Photo Credit: Dllu, Phipps Conservatory

## It's Always Spring at Phipps!



No matter how cold it is outside, there's always one place you can be warm—Phipps Conservatory. Though the weather outside may not be screaming “spring,” you can start enjoying some warmer temperatures and a little greenery right now. Nestled in the heart of Oakland, Phipps has a toasty Tropical Forest Conservatory, which is hosting a special exhibit on Hawaii that was years in the making.

Tropical Forest Hawai'i: Aloha 'Āina is a 12,000-square-foot exhibit with foliage that towers 60 feet high. There are lots of interactive exhibit stations, including a “hale” (a traditional thatched hut) and a station detailing the making of poi, a traditional Hawaiian staple. Visitors will also learn how the colorful kapa cloth is made from the bark of wauke, or paper mulberry trees. And life-sized carvings of beautiful native Hawaiian birds are perched in the treetops.

Phipps is a great place to visit when it's a cold or rainy day. But as the weather warms up a bit, the surrounding Schenley Park will give you an opportunity to explore nature intertwined with

beautiful statuary, including the Westinghouse Memorial & Pond and the Mary Schenley Memorial Fountain, named for the woman who donated the initial 300 acres for the park.

Schenley was named one of “America's Coolest Parks” by Travel + Leisure in 2011. It's a scenic place for an early spring stroll, but there are plenty of annual events that draw visitors from across the country, including the Carnegie Mellon Spring Carnival held in April, a tradition for more than 100 years. It has a decidedly Scottish theme. The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix and International Car Show held in mid-summer is a wonderful event for car enthusiasts, but those of all ages and tastes will likely find it interesting and entertaining.

Besides annual events, Schenley Park offers a lot of enjoyment on a daily basis with a playground, a golf course, a running track, tennis courts, a public swimming pool and softball and soccer fields.

On an historic note, if you love baseball, you'll want to be sure to visit the historical marker and wall of the old Forbes Field, located on Roberto & Vera Clemente Drive, near Bouquet Street. Forbes Field was one of the first all-steel and concrete ballparks in the U.S. It was also the site of four World Series, the first in 1909 and the last in 1960. Baseball legend Babe Ruth hit his last three home runs at this park, and it's where Bill Mazeroski hit a game- and World Series-winning home run in 1960. Though the ballpark was demolished in 1971, fans still gather at the site on the anniversary of Mazeroski's historic home run.

There's lots to do while waiting for the weather to warm up, and the 'burgh offers some nice diversions in the meantime. ■





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