

IN

An IN Community Magazine

Pine-Richland

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pumpkin patches,
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and **more!**



Special Section: Education

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**Special Section: Fall Home
Improvement Guide**

PAGE 29



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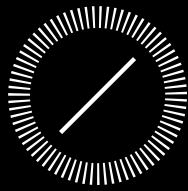
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IN Community is a publication dedicated to representing, encouraging and promoting the Pine-Richland area and its comprising municipalities by focusing on the talents and gifts of the people who live and work here. Our goal is to provide readers with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

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"Leaf" summer behind and fall into fun! We've rounded up the most delightful festivals and events for the whole family!

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A look at the current direction of education, from pre-K to trade school or college, including top trending majors, high-paying vocations, saving for school, types of loans and managing post-college debt.

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on the cover

As the weather cools down, fall fests are heating up. For a calendar of family festivals in your area, see story on page 14.

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

Don't miss our Fall Festival Guide to kick off the season! Celebrate autumn's onset with delicious food and drink, apples, pumpkins, Halloween hayrides, bundles of cornstalks and more.

As the kids head back to school and college, be sure to read our Education Special Section, "2022 Trends in Education." Throughout the global

pandemic, the education community learned that change is possible. Some changes came out of necessity and fell flat, while others proved to be a beneficial addition to the way students learn and teachers teach.

Finally, check out our "Fall Home Improvement" section for 12 projects to check off your list before the winter chill sets in.

Wishing you a fabulous fall!

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If you know someone in your community who is making a difference or has done something extraordinary, let us know! We're also looking for interesting story ideas (little-known facts, history or other news) within your community. If you have suggestions, email us at editors@icmags.com.



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After inpatient procedures and surgeries, our heart patients will have round-the-clock care in our dedicated variable care unit staffed with nurses who know the ins and outs of helping our patients recover quickly.



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Surgical capabilities at AHN Wexford.

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- Cardiac catheterizations and coronary angioplasty with stent placement
- Endovascular surgery for aneurysms
- Carotid surgery
- Vascular surgery

Orthopaedics

- Robotic-assisted partial and total knee and hip replacement surgeries for easier recoveries
- Joint repair, hand and upper extremity, foot, and spine surgeries
- Pediatric orthopaedic surgery

Spine surgery

- Spine surgery including same-day and minimally invasive procedures for back and neck pain

Cancer

- Surgical tumor removal
- Tissue-conserving breast cancer surgery and reconstructive plastic surgery

General medicine

- Gastrointestinal (GI) procedures including endoscopy and colonoscopy
- Advanced GI procedures using real-time imaging
- Pulmonary bronchoscopy procedures

Women's health

Minimally invasive gynecologic surgeries for easier recoveries from a variety of conditions, including:

- Uterine fibroids
- Abnormal uterine bleeding
- Endometriosis
- Pelvic organ prolapse
- Ovarian tumors
- Incontinence



We're already scheduling procedures for September while we wrap up construction. Talk with your doctor or call **(412) DOCTORS** to schedule yours at AHN Wexford.

LOOP

IN

THE

WHAT'S NEWS IN PINE-RICHLAND



PASSAVANT MEMORIAL HOMES FOUNDATION AWARDS \$10,000 COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Passavant Memorial Homes Foundation (PMHF) recently announced the recipient of its 2021 Community Service Scholarship. This scholarship was created to honor the memory of Jamie Ellenberger, an individual served by Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services (PMHFOS) who was an active member in the community.

The principle of community is central to the PMHFOS mission, including efforts to engage in community initiatives and to be involved in community improvements.

PMHF aimed to award a scholarship to a student in the region who brings that same understanding of the value of community service, and this was found in Sydney Komoroski of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School (OLSH). Her lengthy and impressive resume of community service began in 2014 when, for her birthday party, she asked guests to bring Easter baskets for the children of North Hills Community Outreach instead of gifts.

In addition to hosting a party like that each year thereafter, Komoroski has volunteered for St. Alexis, Aquinas Academy, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She has also completed various service projects for the Little Sisters of the Poor, Satchels of Caring, Light of Life Missions, Yellow Ribbon Girls, and Vincentian Home.

Komoroski is a member of LeadersNow International and the Girls Scouts of America, where she is working to earn her Gold Award. She has hosted a five-week-long Peanut Butter and Jelly Food Drive for North Hills Community Outreach, and she helped at her high school with Open Houses, galas, Freshman Foundation Day, and Transfer Student Welcome Day.

Komoroski has baked cookies for the troops, served meals at soup kitchens, and built a Little Free Library for North Hills Community Outreach in its outdoor vegetable garden. She has also helped rescue sea turtles, volunteered at her local library, and made seatbelt pillows for cancer patients with ports.

In addition to her community involvement, Komoroski has been involved in several extracurricular activities. She was a member of her high school bowling team, was in the concert choir, served as an OLSH Ambassador, and was part of the theater program, where she participated in 17 productions. She is also a member of the OLSH Honor Roll.

Komoroski will be attending Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio, where she will study nursing.

This year, PMHF received 72 scholarship applications from students across 19 counties in Pennsylvania. Sydney Komoroski exemplifies the commitment of PMHF and the late Jamie Ellenberger to serving and improving the community.

GREYBROOKE GARDEN CLUB FALL MUM SALE

Greybrooke Garden Club will be holding a Fall Mum Sale on Saturday, Sept. 4, at McCandless Crossing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the grassy area near Bonefish Grill. In addition to hardy mums, garden pots, fall and Halloween decor, and other miscellaneous garden items will be available for sale. For additional information or questions, contact Karen Lampman at 412.366.2096.



PRSD IS LOOKING TO CONNECT WITH ALL RESIDENTS

Pine-Richland School District is trying to reach more members of the community, specifically residents who may not have children in the district. It is also looking to connect with residents who own businesses in the Pine-Richland area. To connect, visit pinerichland.org/residents to complete a short questionnaire so we can reach you via email or phone with pertinent information.

LOCAL STUDENT WINS AT CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER'S PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR



Gibsonia's Sreyashi Mondal was awarded a Certificate of Excellence Sponsor Award (Allegheny County Medical Society Alliance) at Carnegie Science Center's Pittsburgh

Regional Science & Engineering Fair on March 24. Her project was titled "A Multi-Variable County Analysis for the Markets of Higher COVID-19 Case Rates in Pennsylvania."

The fair, a program of Carnegie Science Center's Duquesne Light Center for STEM Education and Career Development, has been a Pittsburgh tradition since 1940. It is the third oldest science fair in the United States under the affiliation of the Society for Science and the Public.

The competition is supported by premier sponsor FedEx Ground, major sponsors Covestro and PPG, and a host of corporations, foundations, universities and professional science and technology societies. ■

Are Trust Services Right For You?



If you're extremely busy with your career and family and you've accumulated a fair amount of assets, you might be concerned about a variety of issues related to financial management and legacy planning. Specifically, you might think you don't have the time or expertise to deal with these matters effectively. If this is the case, you might want to consider using a trust company.

You might think you need to have a large estate or millions of dollars to benefit from working with a trust company, but that's not the case. And if you're not familiar with what a trust company can do, you might be surprised at all the services it can provide, including the following:

- **Wealth management** – Typically, when working with a trust company, you'll receive investment management designed to help you achieve various goals, such as a comfortable retirement and college for your children. The company can manage retirement accounts, monitor investments and disburse funds, make changes as needed and ensure compliance with government reporting for contributions, withdrawals and rollovers. While different companies operate in different ways, you may have an arrangement in which you work with a personal financial advisor and a separate portfolio manager.

- **Financial management during incapacity** – If you were to become incapacitated and couldn't make financial decisions, a trust company can step in, giving you peace of mind from knowing that your financial assets will be managed by a team of professionals, helping protect you and your family from potentially dire consequences.

- **Trust administration** – A trust company can perform several essential tasks related to administering your trust. The company can act as trustee for a trust you've established, such as a revocable living trust, which can allow your estate to avoid

probate while providing you with great control over how your assets will be distributed at your passing. Alternatively, the trust company can work alongside an individual you've designated to execute the terms of a trust. If your selected trustee resigns or becomes unable to make decisions, the trust company can serve as successor trustee. When it's time to settle your estate, the trust company can handle the valuation, dispersion and re-titling of assets, pay off any debts and expenses, and complete any tax returns related to your estate.

- **Bill payment and recordkeeping** – A trust company can keep up with all the trust's bills (household maintenance, medical bills, etc.) and provide statements summarizing receipts, disbursements and the value of assets within the trust.

In addition to providing these practical services, a trust company may benefit you in a more intangible way. It's unfortunate but true that, in many families, dividing up assets can cause conflict and bitter feelings. But when a trust company serves as trustee, it impartially administers distribution of the assets based on the instructions you've provided in the trust – helping minimize family disputes over inheritances.

If you ever feel like the complexities of wealth management and trust administration are getting to be more than you can handle – or perhaps more than you want to handle – consider contacting a trust company. You might find that it can make your life a lot easier.

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You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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Matt Dudkowski has been a financial advisor with Edward Jones since 2002, serving individual investors in the Pittsburgh area from his Shaler Township office. In January of 2015, Dudkowski accepted an invitation to become a limited partner with the firm.

Since joining Edward Jones, Dudkowski has obtained the professional designation of AAMS®. Prior to Edward Jones, Dudkowski, as a CPA, worked at the H.J. Heinz Company, and at Ernst & Young LLP. He currently serves on the board of directors for Keystone Wellness Programs, a local nonprofit organization.

A native of Butler County and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Dudkowski resides in Gibsonia with his wife, two sons and daughter.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Bill Fuller, Corporate Chef and President, big Burrito Restaurant Group/Alta Via Ristorante

Alta Via Ristorante

46 Fox Chapel Road, Fox Chapel;
412.408.3816, altaviapgh.com

On the Menu:

A fresh take on modern Italian fare, the menu begins with Antipasti ranging from Castelvetro Olives, Tuna Tartare, Burrata (oven-roasted tomatoes with garlic confit, basil on grilled focaccia), Fried Calamari, Warm Ricotta Toast (grilled with sweet & spicy peppers, oregano) and Spring Pea Arancini, to a varietal list of Verdura (fresh vegetables), including Vignarola, Beans and Greens, Mushrooms, Baby Artichokes and Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Cauliflower. There is also Little Gem Romaine and Roasted Beets under Insalata, plus Brussels Sprouts folded with black currants, Honeycrisp apples, roasted garlic vinaigrette, Pecorina Romano and pine nuts. The pasta selection is immersed with jumbo lump crab meat (the Gemelli); crispy chicken breast with provolone, Parmigiano Reggiano in a roasted tomato sauce and basil (the Spaghetti); a mushroom Bolognese with fresh ricotta (the Mafaldine); a Five-Cheese Ravioli; Fettuccine; Bucatini with Red Cow Parmesan, Pecorino and Romano; Rigatoni; Lumache with pork and veal meatballs; and Pappardelle with beef short rib sugo and strac-

ciatella. "From the hearth" or Focolare side of the menu has a range of savory dishes, such as the Laurel Hill Trout with Yukon Gold potatoes, hen of the woods, grilled scallion and salsa verde; salmon with a spring pea puree; Gerber Farms Chicken with crispy parmesan potatoes; pork chop; and a bone-in Strip Steak Florentine. The menu concludes with Dolce of chocolate or vanilla gelato, tiramisu, olive oil cake, or a hazelnut-chocolate torte. Plus, there are specialty cocktails and wine to go.



What led you to open Alta Via Ristorante?

I've always wanted to do an Italian restaurant and my partners would say it doesn't sound interesting. But it wasn't the red-checkered-table-cloth-and-red-sauce Italian restaurant they thought I meant. I guess I was just never clear enough describing my vision. I wanted to study some ideas we were seeing around the country and emulate pasta-forward restaurants that are popping up.

We were talking, and there were these great places in New York and San Francisco that had a modern Italian concept—and that's what I was talking about. We looked into it further and were inspired to have house-made pasta and vegetables. It finally came together. The naming of a restaurant is usually a challenge. We talked and talked, and our CEO came up with Alta Via, referring to an old trail in the Italian Alps. The name reflects the vegetable-driven menu and a coalescing of Italy and Northern California; with that feeling of going out for an all-day hike while shopping for local vegetables and spices. The plan fell together, and we opened in the spring of 2019.

Describe how you curate the modern Italian menu.

The way I work with all of our restaurants [as corporate chef and President of big Burrito Restaurant Group, overseeing Mad Mex, Casbah, Kaya, Eleven, Soba, Umi and Alta Via Ristorante] is each one has an executive chef. We work out menu ideas and make our modifications from there to curate each unique menu. For instance, we [do a] summer Pasta Fest menu for Casbah. Dustin, the executive



Bill Fuller, Corporate Chef and President of big Burrito Restaurant Group. (Photo courtesy of big Burrito Restaurant Group.)

chef, will write an initial menu and we will work through it together, making a dish or two if we feel we need to. Alta Via partially came out of these seasonal pasta menus at Casbah.

What kitchen tool can't you live without?

My knife is my main tool, and I don't share it—ever. In terms of my business tool, it's hands-down my phone. I'm on it all day, texting and sending emails. There's this app that shows what sales are and who's checked in—I couldn't do all that I have to do without it.

What's your favorite quick meal to prepare at home?

I have a daughter, Zoe, who is finishing her sophomore year at college and a son, Jake, who is a junior in high school. I make ricotta cheese cavatelli with egg and flour and freeze it. I'll cook up some sausage, and some home-canned tomato sauce, a chunk of butter, toss the cavatelli in, and top it with fresh ricotta cheese—basically our Casbah cavatelli. Boom!

What's your favorite go-to ingredient?

I like using Calabrian Chile peppers. They're hot, but so good.

What's your best advice for a novice?

I learned to master the basics and attribute my thinking to Pablo Picasso. He said to learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist. If you don't know how to do something right, you can't get creative.

What's the next big food or dining trend?

We're adding Alta Via Pizzeria in Bakery Square this fall. It has the look and feel of Alta Via Ristorante, but with a pizza focus—offering California-style and square Sicilian-style pie. ■

—Reese Randall



Pea Arancini at Alta Via Ristorante. (Photo courtesy of big Burrito Restaurant Group.)



Coldwell Banker's LUZ CAMPBELL

Do I Need a Real Estate Agent in a Seller's Market?

With the market continuing to be hot, people often ask "Why do I need a real estate agent?" I explain to them that just like any profession, there's a level of expertise, experience and knowledge necessary to a successful outcome. Real estate is no different. Selling your home is more than simply agreeing on price.

There are numerous components to selling a home that most people are completely unaware about. How do you set the price and what is your pricing strategy? Do you know how to market your home? Do you know your legal obligations? Are you familiar with the sales agreement? How do you handle multiple offers? Which offer is the best? Most sellers naturally think it's the highest priced one, but very often it's not. A combination of factors determines the best offer. How do you minimize risk so the deal doesn't fall apart? A professional Realtor® will guide you to make sure it goes smoothly.

Marketing Your Home

You may be able to list your home on Zillow, Trulia, and even the MLS, but it is unlikely you have a network of Realtors® who are crucial to selling a home. This network is critical in today's market since agents frequently speak to one another regarding upcoming listings and are often able to locate potential buyers before a home is even listed. Realtors have the ability to advertise on hundreds of websites and run specifically targeted ads on the web and social media sites. You may have a large personal network, but it's doubtful that you have relationships with potential buyers and local agents.

Negotiations

Negotiations are an essential part of selling a home and the key to finalizing the deal. You may have good negotiation skills, but that will be of little use if you do not know the primary areas of negotiation. Once again, it is not always price. A Realtor® knows what to negotiate and can do so without emotion, which often clouds the seller's judgment. This is especially significant since you will be negotiating with the buyer's agent, not the buyer. Without an agent, how do you know if you really negotiated a good and solid deal? The lack of knowledge and expertise could be most harmful in multiple-offer scenarios, which can be overwhelming even with an agent.

Legal Risks and Requirements

There was a time when selling a home required a single document. Today there are numerous legal documents, perhaps none more important than the Seller's Disclosure. A seller has a legal obligation to disclose anything that could affect the value of the home. Failure to do so can result in personal liability. Although not an attorney, a Realtor® knows the importance and will guide you through the selling process and reduce your liability.

The Bottom Line

Selling a home on your own is a tall order and you want to make as much money as possible. But it is not easy, and statistically, FSBO's take longer to sell and sell for less. Your best option is to use a professional Realtor® who will guide you through the process to make sure you get top dollar for your home.



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PINE COMMUNITY DAY 2021

On Saturday, July 17, residents and friends of Pine Township gathered together to enjoy Community Day from 4 p.m. to dusk. The event had something for all ages including a barnyard petting zoo, children's game area, ice creations, jumbo bounce houses, train rides, a watermelon eating contest and more! Live entertainment was provided by Jukebox Band, and the evening ended with a fireworks display by Pyrotecnico.

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Fall Fun Guide

**“LEAF” SUMMER BEHIND
AND FALL INTO FUN!
WE’VE ROUNDED UP
THE MOST DELIGHTFUL
FESTIVALS
AND EVENTS FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY!**

BY W.B. FRESA



Down on the Farm

Cheeseman’s Pumpkin Festival and Fright Farm

Dates: Check the website for the dates.
Address: Kennedy Road, Portersville
Contact: 724.368.3233, or cheesemanfarm.com

Growing fun for the whole family! Take a hayride, pick a pumpkin, run and jump in the hay maze, spend some time enjoying the petting zoo and browsing for seasonal items and gifts. Or, maybe you want to put a little fright in your night. Then plan a visit after sunset when the renowned Cheeseman Fright Farm is open! Visit the website for more information on fees, schedules and other details.

Freedom Farms Fall Festival

Dates: Check the website for the dates.
Address: 795 Pittsburgh Road, Butler
Contact: 724.586.5551, or freedomfarmspa.com

Featuring hayrides, a pumpkin patch, corn pit, hay mountain, and corn maze! Breweries and wineries available for adults while the kids play, as well as vendors, food, and activities. Visit the website for more information.

Harvest Valley Farms Fall Festival

Dates: Check the website for the dates.
Address: 125 Ida Lane, Valencia
Contact: 724.443.5869, or
harvestvalleyfarms.com

October is a very special time of the year for Harvest Valley Farms! The entire valley is transformed from a full-time working produce farm into a fun-filled, pick-your-own-pumpkin festival! Enjoy a hayride, go through a cornstalk maze, or straw tunnel, to the pumpkin patch, view farm animals, play pumpkin bowling and more. Visit the website for more information on fees, schedules and other details.

Shenot Farm Market Hayrides to the Pumpkin Patch

Dates: Check the website for the dates.
Address: 3754 Wexford Run Road,
Marshall Township
Contact: shenotfarm.com, or 724.935.2542

Offering hayrides to the pumpkin patch and corn maze—a great way to spend an afternoon with your family, and a perfect time to get your jack-o-lanterns, cornstalks, straw

bales, decorative Indian corn, delicious sweet corn, apples, cider, and vegetables. (Pumpkin Smash is also available the immediate weekend following Halloween. Take your jack-o-lanterns and decorative pumpkins to smash—roll ‘em and wreck ‘em on the farm terrain. It’s a blast!) Visit the website for more information on fees and other details.

Soergel Orchards’ Fall Festival Weekends

Dates: Check the website for the dates.
Address: 2573 Brandt School Road, Wexford
Contact: 724.935.1743, or soergels.com

Don’t miss the popular fall weekends on the farm with pumpkin picking, tractor rides, hayrides, games, apple picking (determined by availability), horse-drawn wagon rides, drinks from Arsenal Cider and Arrowhead Wine, and great food from the food barn and Back 40 BBQ. Visit the website for more information.

Festivals and Fairs

Ascension Lutheran Church Annual Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market

Date: Oct. 9
Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Address: 8225 Peebles Road, McCandless
Contact: pyoung1234@comcast.net

Spend a crisp fall morning with Ascension Lutheran Church. Its “almost famous” homemade apple and pumpkin pies will be on sale as well as hot dogs, beverages and various other goodies (eat in or take out). Of course, there will be pumpkins for purchase! Many vendors with crafts or treasures participate in the flea market, and the “church ladies” have also been hard at work making some special crafts to sell.

Barn Bash at Orchardview Stables

Date: Sept. 11
Address: 5179 Wexford Run Road, Marshall Township
Contact: orchardviewstables.org

Don’t miss this annual fundraising event for horses that help, and learn more about the growth of Orchardview’s therapeutic horsemanship programs while supporting its mission. Enjoy food and beverages from popular local businesses. There will also be many great raffles and prizes as well as Orchardview Stables merchandise available to purchase. Visit the website for information on purchasing tickets and more details.

Evans City Oktoberfest

Dates: Sept. 17-19
Address: Downtown Evans City
Contact: 724.538.8126, or facebook.com/ECOktoberfest

Enjoy this annual fall festival celebrated at different locations in downtown Evans City. Some of the many activities include art, craft and food vendors, a parade, contests, a car cruise and live music. Visit the website for more information.

The Hydref, Depreciation Museum’s Fall Festival and Market Faire

Date: Oct. 2
Address: 4743 South Pioneer Road, Allison Park
Contact: 412.486.0563, or depreciationlandsmuseum.org

Rain or shine, there will be plenty to see and activities for everyone! Traditionally, the entire town and countryside turned out for the annual Market Faire. You will meet skilled 18th century craftspeople, re-enactors, and “sutlers,” purveyors of 18th century goods. Enjoy entertainment, demonstrations, live music, great food and activities for the children. Hydref, which means “autumn” in Welsh, was named to commemorate the Welsh heritage of some of the early settlers. Check out the website for more details.

Mars Applefest

Date: Oct. 2
Address: Corner of Grand Avenue and Pittsburgh Street, Mars
Contact: marsapplefest.org

Take a bite out of fall in downtown Mars! Sponsored by the Rich-Mar Rotary, Applefest features food, entertainment, exhibitors, crafts, games, and shopping. Visit the website for more information.

McCandless Township Community Day

Date: Sept. 11
Address: North Allegheny Intermediate School and McCandless Town Hall, 9955 Grubbs Road, Wexford
Contact: townofmccandless.org, or 412.364.0616

Greet your family, friends and neighbors at Community Day! Events begin in the morning with the SK McCandless Town Trot followed by a car cruise in the afternoon and fireworks display in the evening. Visit the website for more details.

Millvale Days

Dates: Sept. 16-18
Address: Downtown Millvale
Contact: Facebook @MillvaleDays

Don’t miss food, music, games, rides, local business specials, parades, volleyball, and the car cruise! Visit the Facebook page for more information.

St. Alexis Festival and St. Alphonsus Harvest Home Dinner

Dates: Sept. 9-11, Festival; Sept. 12, Harvest Home Dinner
Locations: St. Alexis, 10090 Old Perry Highway; St. Alphonsus, 201 Church Road, Wexford
Contact: saintaidanparish.org, or harvesthomedinner.com

Celebrate the season with fall fun and delicious autumn foods at the St. Alexis Festival and St. Alphonsus Harvest Home Dinner. You can enjoy live stage entertainment, games, rides, festival food favorites, raffles, prizes, Blackjack, a flea market, Bingo, beer garden and more. The Harvest Home Dinner is dine-in or takeout, with your choice of charcoal-grilled half chicken, ham or pulled pork. Dinners also include side dishes made from local farm produce, rolls and dessert. Visit the websites for more information.

Sewickley Harvest Festival

Date: Sept. 11
Address: Broad and Thorn Streets, Sewickley
Contact: sewickleyborough.org

Presented by the Quaker Valley Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Sewickley, this event features food, live entertainment, vendors, kids’ activities, arts & crafts and more. Merchant sidewalk sales and other events in town round out a fantastic and busy weekend in the village. Visit the website for more information.

Shaler Area Middle School Craft & Vendor Fair

Date: Sept. 30
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Address: 1800 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Shaler
Contact: Facebook @ShalerAreaMiddleSchoolPTO

Freshen things up this fall and help to support programming for students by shopping at the Shaler Area Middle School Craft & Vendor Fair. Admission is free. More than 60 tables, concessions, raffles and 50/50!

Continued on next page >

Fall Fun Guide



Shaler Fall Fest

Date: Oct. 2

Address: Kiwanis Park, 1 Meyer Road, Glenshaw

Contact: shaler.org

A fun fall family event courtesy of Shaler Township! Featuring a children's parade, crafts, games, straw obstacle course and more. Visit the website for more information.

Zelienople Country Fall Festival

Dates: Oct. 9 & 10

Address: Downtown Zelienople

Contact: zeliellfallfest.com

Stop at Zelienople's Main Street Park at the four corners where there will be a variety of festival events, music, food, historical encampments, farmers market, pony rides and farm pets, antiques, crafters, and take a free ride in a horse-drawn trolley wagon! The festival continues with a chili cook-off, kids' activities, The Musical Jubilee, shops, sidewalk sales, the Zelienople Museum's Passavant House and Buhl House historical tours, historical treasure hunt and much more. Visit the website for more information.

Halloween Events

Haunted Trail at Camp Guyasuta

Date: Oct. 16

Address: Laurel Highlands Council, Boy Scouts of America, 300 23rd Street, Sharpsburg
Contact: 412.782.2669, or
scoutingevent.com/527-41410

Haunted Trail at Camp Guyasuta features a hayride, climbing, 600' zipline (11 and up) and a bonfire! The Trading Post will be open and there will be food for sale. All participants must have a signed consent form, available on the website or at the entrance, and children must attend with an adult. Visit the website for fee information and other details.

Lantern Tours at the Depreciation Lands Museum

Dates: Oct. 16 and 23

Address: 4743 South Pioneer Road, Allison Park

Contact: 412.486.0563, or
depreciationlandsmuseum.org

Enjoy a family-friendly guided tour of the museum and cemetery by lantern light. You will be treated to tall tales,

superstitions and customs from the past. Visit the website for registration information and other details.

Ohio Township's Haunted Trail

Date: Oct. 30 – check the website for additional dates.

Address: Ohio Township Community Park Nature Trail, 325 Nicholson Road, Sewickley

Contact: ohiotwp.org

Just when you thought it was safe for a stroll in the park... Enter the Haunted Trail if you dare! Enjoy a Halloween celebration with crafts, treats, and the Haunted Trail. Memorable scenes will be back along with new additions. Stop by for a good scare and a fun night—free of charge! Adult and teen volunteers are needed. Visit the website for more information.

Pine Township Halloween Party in the Park

Dates: October—check the website for the dates.

Address: 100 Pine Park Drive, Wexford
Contact: twp.pine.pa.us

Little ghosts and goblins are invited to a Halloween party at Pine Community Park! Kids' activities include crafts, a petting zoo, train rides, prizes, storytelling, hayrides, bonfire and costume contest. Check the website for more information.

Sewickley Halloween Parade

Date: October—check the website for the date.

Address: Sewickley Borough Building, 601 Thorn Street, Sewickley
Contact: sewickleyborough.org

The Halloween Parade begins at the Municipal Building, continues to Walnut Street, Beaver Street, and Chestnut Street, then back to the Municipal Building for hot dogs, drinks and treat bags, courtesy of Quaker Valley Rotary. Visit the website for more information.

Sleepy Hollow Festival

Date: Oct. 9

Address: Downtown Harmony
Contact:

harmonybusinessassociation.com/events

Sponsored by the Harmony Business Association, this all-day event includes live music, trick-or-treat, a scavenger hunt, costume contests, face painting, kids' games, vendors, ghost walk specials at The Harmony Inn and more! Visit the website for more information.

Trunk or Treat at Richland Mall

Date: Oct. 28

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Address: 5375 William Flynn Highway, Gibsonia

Contact: richlandmall.net/events

Don't miss this enhanced car cruise where cruisers decorate their cars and celebrate Halloween with the community! The event provides a fun, safe environment for children and families to trick-or-treat. Visit the website for more details.

Zombies of the Corn

Dates: Check the website for the dates.

Address: 282 Rochester Road, Freedom

Contact: 724.775.6232, or

zombiesofthecorn.com

Go on an adventure to hunt zombies or walk through a zombie compound! Listen to ghost stories around the campfire while you roast a hot dog or marshmallow, or get your face painted zombie-style. Visit the website for more information.

Ideas and Inspiration

Mars Brew Fest

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 5 to 8 p.m.

Address: Downtown Mars Borough

Contact:

marsnewyear.com/mars-brew-fest

Take a spin through downtown Mars for Brew Fest! There will be many home brewers from the Butler Area Society of Homebrewers. Visit the website for a complete list of participating brewers, distilleries, and wineries. Must be 21 or older, and no pets are allowed.

Stewart/Schlag Log House Tours

Dates: First and third Sundays of every month through September

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.

Address: Evergreen Community Park, 3430 Evergreen Road, Ross Township
Contact: ross.pa.us

Take a step back in time this fall by taking a tour of a historical cabin that offers a view of how two early Ross families lived. A docent from the Ross Historical Society will be available to assist visitors and answer questions. For more information, visit the website.

More Outdoor Activities

Kayaking Discovery Course

Dates: September and October dates available – check the website.

Address: 10400 Babcock Boulevard, Gibsonsia

Contact: llbean.com

L.L.Bean's Kayaking Discovery Course is a great way to learn the basic paddling techniques and safety skills of this popular activity. All necessary equipment is provided. Visit the website for information on reservations, fees and other details.

Lake Arthur Fall Foliage Cruises

Dates: Visit the website for the dates.

Address: Moraine State Park, 118 North Shore Drive, Portersville

Contact: 724.368.9185, or moraine preservation fund.org/activities/boat-tours-cruises

Get inspired by the beauty of fall foliage reflected on water by participating in a cruise that includes a 1.5-hour fully narrated tour of Lake Arthur. The crew will talk about park history and fascinating points of interest, and answer questions. Visit the website for more information on making a reservation, fees and other details.

Ohio Township's Sunset Run + Hike

Date: September – check the website for the date.

Address: Ohio Township Community Park, 325 Nicholson Road, Sewickley
Contact: ohiotwp.org/parksand recreation, or 412.364.6321

Nothing is better than watching a beautiful sunset in Ohio Township's Community Park! This fall, take it all in with friends and neighbors during the Sunset Run + Hike. This hybrid event captures the best views, and challenges participants of any ability. An awards ceremony and prize raffle will follow. Visit the website for more information on registration and other details.

Park Explorers: Kids on the Trail with the Park Rangers

Date: Sept. 14

Address: Hartwood Acres Amphitheater, 4000 Middle Road, Allison Park
Contact: apm.activecommunities.com/allegheyparks/Home

Explore nature along the trails of Allegheny County Parks! The hike will be approximately one mile and is easy in

difficulty. Bring water and wear closed-toe shoes. Designed for kids ages 5-10 but all are welcome! Visit the website for more details.

Shaler Township Movies in the Park

Date: Oct. 9

Time: Dusk

Address: Kiwanis Park, 1 Meyer Road, Glenshaw

Contact: shaler.org/379/Movie-in-the-Parks

Bring your chairs and blankets and get ready to have some free family fun while viewing "Hocus Pocus," an American fantasy-horror-comedy. Visit the website for more details.

Shaler Township Community Yard Sale

Date: Sept. 18

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Address: Kiwanis Park, 1 Meyer Road, Glenshaw

Contact: shaler.org/397/Community-Yard-Sale, or amay@shaler.org

Don't miss the Shaler Township Yard Sale this fall! Shop in the park and/or sell your wares for just \$15 per spot. Visit the website for registration and other information.

The Tropical 5k Classic

Date: Sept. 18

Address: Hartwood Acres, 4000 Middle Road, Allison Park
Contact: tropical5kclassic.org

The Obstacle Course Race, known as the Tropical 5K Classic, is a fun and challenging Hawaiian-themed event! Participants will be crawling, climbing, bouncing and bending to raise funds for blood cancer research and patient services. Each team is responsible for carrying one pineapple throughout the course without letting it touch the ground. Customarily costumes are worn as well. After the race, there is a luau complete with Hawaiian food, drinks, awards and steel drums! Visit the website for more information.



Continued on next page >



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Live Entertainment

**'ABBAMANIA,' an ABBA Tribute,
Presented by the Legacy Theatre**

Date: Sept. 25

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Address: 700 Cumberland Woods Drive,
McCandless

Contact: thelegacylineup.com

"ABBAMANIA" is billed as the number-one ABBA production in the world. With authentic costumes and incredible vocals, it will take you back in time to when ABBA was on stage, live in concert. "ABBAMANIA" is a show for all ages to

enjoy! Visit the website for information on purchasing tickets and more details.

Marshall Township Concert in the Park featuring Eldorado

Date: Sept. 10

Time: 7 p.m.

Address: Elias Fry Barn, Knob Hill Park,
415 Knob Road, Wexford

Contact: twp.marshall.pa.us

Join Marshall Township for an evening of music under the stars with a performance by Eldorado! Bring a chair or blanket with you. There is no registration or fee. Visit the website for more details.

Taste of the New North

Date: Oct. 25

Address: DoubleTree by Hilton,
910 Sheraton Drive, Mars

Contact: thestrandtheater.org, or
724.742.0400

Don't miss North Pittsburgh's top restaurants together for one night! There will also be a variety of performances and auctions. This is The Strand's largest annual fundraising event and proceeds

support the Strand Theater Initiative, which successfully revived the historic Strand in 2009 and continues its work to support the theater. Visit the website for information on purchasing tickets and more details. ■

☀️ Didn't see your event listed? No worries! Let us include it next year. Email the information to editors@icmags.com.

☀️ We do our best to make sure the events listed are accurate, but always check the website or call ahead for the most updated information.



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Our family had finally outgrown our starter house and we knew it was time to find a forever home. Buying and selling a home can be a stressful experience, especially during a global pandemic. Partnering with Brian made this process a joy. He is incredibly responsive and truly invested in finding a property that fulfills all your wants and needs. Both the buying and selling process went smoothly because of his expert negotiating skills and professionalism. We asked Brian to go above and beyond to find our new home and he exceeded our expectations. We will not hesitate to use him in the future if necessary and certainly recommend him to all our friends and family.

- Ryan and Hillary M.



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VERONA GUN SAFE

Locally Owned and Here For You

For the past 10 years, Alex Corn and his wife have been growing Verona Gun Safe from a cramped store into the spacious firearms dealership that it is today. With a focus on contemporary weapons, Verona Gun Safe is a gun store for the 21st century.

"We pride ourselves on being very open, modern, and accepting," said Corn. "Unfortunately, the firearms industry has a reputation of being very exclusionary. We are inclusive. We're here for everyone."

And that includes on the buying side as well as the selling side. Verona Gun Safe is the place you want to go if you're looking to sell firearms to trade up in your collection, or to find a good home for guns you may have inherited from relatives.

"We love buying entire collections, and if you have a large collection, say more than 10 or 15 guns, we're happy to come on-site and come up with a valuation," Corn said. "We buy and sell everything,

but handguns are most popular for us, and we don't deal in blackpowder or antiques."

Corn notes that despite gun ownership being a Constitutional right, many people still don't know what to expect when shopping for a gun.

"We answer a lot of questions for people and spend a lot of time with new customers," he said. "We've had more new gun buyers in the past 4 or 5 months than ever before. People are looking for their first gun to protect themselves or their families, so we take the time to match the customer and their needs with a gun that's appropriate for them. But by and large, people just don't know what the process is like and are intimidated by that. They are intimidated by the background check, paperwork, licensing, all of it because there's a lot of misinformation out there. Everyone knows it's a right, but not how fundamental and accessible it really is."

In addition to carrying new lines like Glock, HK, Springfield, CZ, Smith & Wesson, and more, Verona Gun Safe has an integrated web inventory system that showcases up-to-the-minute inventory, thanks to Corn's computer science background.

"I'm a young guy who was into computer science in general and cyber security specifically before I opened the store," he said. "So the website is updated in real time. When I buy it, it goes up, and when I sell it, it disappears. We also



answer emails at all hours, getting back to our customers in as few as 2-3 hours."

And if you can't find it at Verona Gun Safe, the shop can be your local pickup and transfer location for any vendor nationwide, making any purchase and associated paperwork as easy as possible. It also carries an assortment of trigger locks, accessories, ammunition, cleaning kits, magazines, gear bags, and smaller gun safes.

Verona Gun Safe is also a good neighbor in the community, supporting local sports teams, police, and fraternal organizations like the local Masonic and Moose lodges.



For more information on Verona Gun Safe, go to the website at veronagunsafe.com. You can also call directly at 412.826.8112, or email sales@veronagunsafe.com. The store is located at 716 Allegheny River Boulevard in Verona, 15147, and accepts all major credit cards, cash, and check.



veronagunsafe.com

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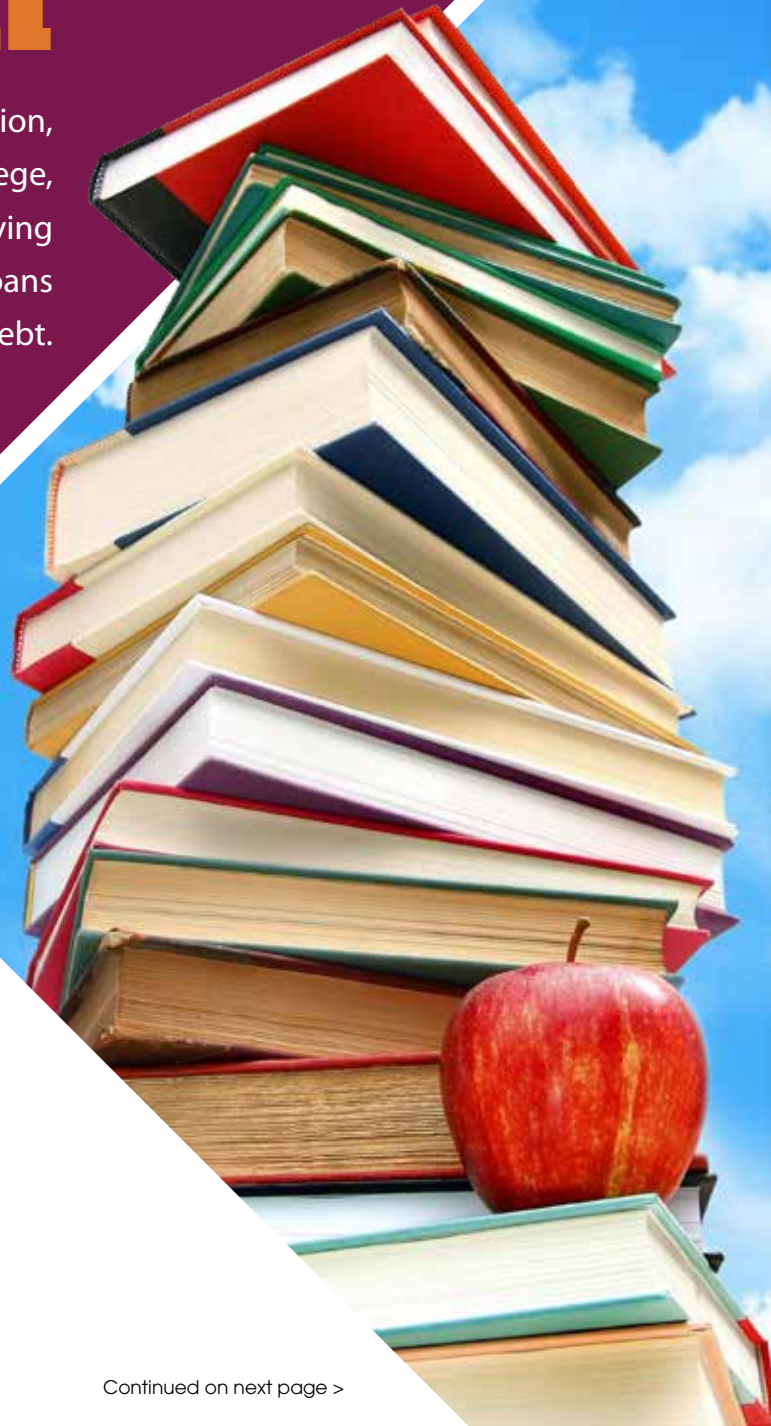
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2022 Trends in Education

A look at the current direction of education, from pre-K to trade school or college, including top trending majors, high-paying vocations, saving for school, types of loans and managing post-college debt.



Continued on next page >



NO ONE CAME OUT OF A YEAR OF ONLINE LEARNING UNSCATHED, BUT AS THE GREAT ALBERT EINSTEIN ONCE SAID, "IN THE MIDST OF EVERY CRISIS LIES GREAT OPPORTUNITY."

The past two years brought about changes to every element of our lives, forcing us into a new reality. Educators, students, and parents across the globe scrambled to reinvent the school day—what was once a reliable constant in our daily lives. Parents adjusted work schedules to act as a teacher's helper, they set up mini classrooms in a corner of their homes to create a workspace that was adequate for their children to learn, and tried providing a sense of normalcy in what was a far-from-normal time.

Students of all ages learned a digital way to communicate with their peers and their teachers, blowing the screen time recommendation limit out of the water with daylong online learning. Teachers reinvented ways to connect with their students, recreating a classroom in their own home, working tirelessly to develop ways to not only educate, but entertain students who struggled with online learning.

No one came out of a year of online learning unscathed, but as the great Albert Einstein once said, "In the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity." The education system across the world is rethinking the way students learn. While it is undoubtable that most students learn best in person, benefiting from both social interactions and one-on-one attention, there is a desire to continue optional virtual learning. In many instances, virtual learning meets a need for students with certain medical conditions, others who may have transportation challenges, or those who simply prefer to learn virtually.

What the entire education community learned through a global pandemic is that change is possible. Some changes

came out of necessity and fell flat, while others proved to be a beneficial addition to the way students learn and teachers teach.

Where Virtual Learning Falls Short

Technology-forward schools likely saw an easier transition to virtual learning simply because students already had the technology they needed. A computer or tablet and reliable internet are two things many students only have while they are in the classroom. The pandemic brought to light the inequities between socioeconomically advantaged and disadvantaged schools based on access to technology. Even families in advantaged schools struggled with the ability to provide multiple children the resources needed to all be online at the same time.

Increasing access for students in need was also slow on the uptake. Many teachers turned to their own resources to aid students when and where possible. Yet, even as students received access to adequate technology, there was a learning curve for students, teachers, and parents alike. Teachers needed to quickly learn how to adapt lesson plans to an online platform, while learning the new technology themselves. On the other end of the computer screen, students and parents scrambled to install learning platforms, locate the mute/unmute button, and learn best practices on how and when to use the camera.

It was almost overnight that virtual learning was adopted and considered the way for the near-term future. While many schools returned to hybrid or in-person learning, there are still challenges that schools are addressing for technology and the future of education.

Continued on page 24 >



Lightbridge Academy®

Innovators in Educational Child Care

When Lightbridge Academy opened its doors last spring, it gave local parents a new option in child care that was lacking in the region. Known as *The Solution for Working Parents®*, Lightbridge Academy serves children from 6 weeks to 5 years old in a state-of-the-art facility. This location, which is celebrating its one-year anniversary in August, is the passion of Mia Fidei, Cara Clayton and Ted Yannotti, a father-daughters team who bring a wealth of experience.

The Lightbridge Academy curriculum focuses on all areas of a child's growth, helping to achieve each individual's full potential. By seeing the letters, signing the words and hearing sounds, children learn through a multi-sensory approach. STREAM, reading and writing readiness, music, Spanish, and American Sign Language are also included.

The goal is to cultivate a stimulating and nurturing environment that expands the innate abilities of children through various learning domains. Educators encourage children with a "Learning is fun" philosophy through play and positive reinforcement to build upon the skills they acquire at different stages of growth. Each classroom is designed with age-appropriate learning centers to offer children the ability to explore and learn academically and developmentally.

Lightbridge Academy is also one of the only child care centers in the region that uses ParentView® Internet monitoring and a parent eCommunication app, which provides parents with an ongoing connection during the day, as well as back-up care, nutritious snacks, optional meal plans, extended hours, in-house extra-curricular activities, parent workshops, summer programming, occasional babysitting nights for parents, and so much more!

In addition to innovative technology, Lightbridge Academy also invested in a Micron® 600 3-in-1 air purifier and filtration system that sterilizes the air, reducing airborne pathogen transmission. These enhanced health and safety protocols are just part of the Lightbridge Promise.

The Hampton Township center is located at 2890 East Hardies Road in Gibsonsia. Visit [LightbridgeAcademy.com](https://www.LightbridgeAcademy.com) or call **724.444.8476** to learn more about the Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K programs.





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Trends for 2022:

- **Increased access** – Policy makers, school administrations, and teachers say there's no going back to the way things were prior to the pandemic. Although many districts are going back to in-person learning, the need and desire for a more structured option for virtual learning is clear. Requests for grants to increase access to technology and a reliable and safe infrastructure are being submitted by administrators to provide their student populations with the option for virtual or hybrid learning.
- **Greater focus on data privacy and cybersecurity** – Devoid of the safety of protected private school networks, data privacy and cybersecurity continue to be a concern for school administrators. Ensuring the safety of students and faculty is a top priority, but it's been challenging to manage.

Victories of Virtual Learning

Remote learning also had its successes. The change to virtual forced students and teachers to quickly master and adapt to a new way of learning—a way that will now be a viable option for the future of education.

Teachers found groups of other educators who were going through the same trials, sharing best practices, finding mentors in the field, and becoming a stronger community through the process. Younger generations were helping older generations adjust to using new technologies, while students were finding new and unique ways to maintain their social relationships through virtual means. Online learning opened new opportunities for students to learn at their own pace, provided access to resources that may never have been available to them in a physical setting, and gave the entire world a crash course in a new way of learning that would have otherwise taken years to achieve.

Trends for 2022:

- **Option for self-paced learning** – The online classroom provided students with the flexibility to set the pace for how and when they learn, giving them the best opportunity for success. Some students were even afforded the opportunity to learn from other educators beyond the “four walls” of their classroom.
- **Push for tech-related learning** – Students and parents alike are recognizing that the future is bright through technology. As students forced themselves to become more tech savvy and solve internet issues, deal with devices crashing, and learn new software, they've discovered an interest in technology (beyond social media) that they never knew existed.

The Future: Recovering from a Year “Lost”

Although the first few months were a struggle mentally, physically and emotionally, we were all in it together. Families started finding routines to balance remote learning time with time spent together. Students were finding the mute/unmute button with ease, and on-camera slip-ups were happening less often. The learning gap will be felt throughout the world, but teachers, students, and parents have proven their ability to adjust. It's safe to say that the future of education has virtually changed forever.

10 College Majors That Hold Promising Career Paths

Preparing for life after high school can be stressful but choosing a college major shouldn't be! Although you should take time to explore your strengths and passions, also keep in mind specific industries that are of interest to you. Many college majors can teach you the general tools you need to succeed in a certain profession and can be applied across several industries. The following majors are just a peek into the top college majors in demand today.

1. **Nursing** – If this past year has proved anything, it's that health care workers are true heroes. Nursing has had a steady employment rate for years, and in recent times continues to grow. With the once largest generation of Baby Boomers entering later stages of life, and the now largest generation of Millennials having children, nurses are in high demand for our increasing population.

2. **Computer Science** – This major can span many industries and focuses on exposure to both computer hardware and software. The current advancements in technology have computer science majors learning about robotics, natural language recognition, and artificial intelligence, among others. Careers with this degree include IT consultant, information systems manager, database administrator, games developer and technical writer.
3. **Business Administration** – If you're not quite sure what career path to take, business administration could be a good option. A degree in business administration could open a myriad of doors to industries large and small, allowing your skills to be versatile. Business administrators typically work in an office setting and hold a managerial position.
4. **Accounting** – Another major that is in demand across industries is accounting. You can find accountants working for organizations from sports teams to nonprofits. If math is a strong suit for you, this major could open a lot of opportunities to choose a company that aligns with your passions but capitalizes on your strengths in your day-to-day role.
5. **Physical Therapy** – Due to an increasing aging population, physical therapists are in high demand. Working in this field, you could find a job in a hospital, rehab facility, or even working with a sports team. Because physical therapists can work in several different areas, the unemployment rate is low.
6. **Medical Assistance** – Another role in the health care industry, medical assistants support doctors and other health care professionals in a clinical setting. Most only need an associate degree from a two-year college to get started.
7. **Software Engineering** – Interested in learning another language? Programming language, that is! The rapidly advancing field of software engineering studies the scientific and mathematical side of computer software. If you're good at problem solving and excited by the opportunity for continuous learning, a software engineering major could be of interest.
8. **Psychology** – Psychologists can work in a variety of locations: within schools, private practices, or even large hospitals. To become a psychologist, you must graduate with your bachelor's degree, then go on to master's and doctorate degrees to work in a clinical setting.
9. **Marketing** – Another degree that can lead you to many different career paths, marketers develop strategies to promote products and services for companies. Areas of marketing, such as digital marketing, are growing rapidly with the increase in online shopping, making targeting ads to consumers even easier and more profitable.
10. **Education** – Although the field of education is changing dramatically, the demand for quality educators remains high. Teachers can choose to teach in person or online, depending on the type of school and the subject.

Trade and Technical Schools

Trade school enrollment continues to increase since the early 2000s, but a steep decline in vocational education in the 1980s and '90s led to a shortage of skilled workers across the nation. The need to gain back these critical workers has meant an increase in wages and jobs, encouraging students and parents to see past an old stigma of choosing vocational school over college. Plus, over the past 30 years, the cost to attend a four-year college has increased by 213 percent, leaving some students wanting to avoid the hefty price tag of a four-year degree.

Highest-paying trades or vocations available, according to Indeed.com

- **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)** – Working under the direction of doctors and registered nurses, LPNs are responsible for updating patient charts and keeping doctors and nurses up-to-date on patient health changes. LPNs work long shifts and can work in a hospital, outpatient facility, nursing home, or other caregiving facility.

Continued on next page >



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- **HVAC Technician** – Installing, repairing, replacing, and maintaining systems are all part of an HVAC tech's role. Heating, ventilation, refrigeration, and air-conditioning systems are required to properly maintain workplaces, hospitals, and homes, among other buildings.
- **Home Inspector** – Ensuring the safety of a home or building is the main job of home inspectors. They are required to be familiar with all types of systems that are in a home including heating, electrical, plumbing, and the overall structural system of a home. Being a home inspector requires you to be physically fit and capable of climbing ladders and crawling through small spaces during inspection.
- **Plumber** – Not only responsible for unclogging toilets and drains, but plumbers also often install and repair gas supply lines as well. It's critical to understand the flow of these systems and to problem-solve and troubleshoot when issues arise within them.
- **Electrician** – Training to become an electrician takes about as long as it takes to get a bachelor's degree and a license, but this job training pays for itself along the way. If reading blueprints and installing or repairing wires and other electrical components interests you, this career might be electrifying.
- **Landscape Designer** – If you enjoy the outdoors and gardening, look into landscape design. These professionals offer plans on designing outdoor spaces for residential and commercial settings that take into account environmental challenges, features that are meant to be emphasized, and overall aesthetics.
- **Respiratory Therapist** – Respiratory therapists work with patients who have breathing difficulties, and also aid in emergency situations such as drowning, heart attack, or shock. They assess patients' respiratory needs and make sure they're receiving proper care through breathing treatments.
- **Dental Hygienist** – Smile! Your career could be in making teeth brighter. Dental hygienists work to clean teeth, take x-rays, and educate patients on oral health. They are also ranked among the most satisfied workers. You'll need an associate degree to pursue this career.
- **Ultrasonographer** – After obtaining an associate degree, sonographers go on to prepare patients for procedures, review and process images for physicians, and administer ultrasounds. They are also responsible for operating imaging equipment.

Types of Educational Loans

Getting into college is one of the most exciting times of a student's life and is the first step in shaping a variety of careers. Many colleges and universities offer a myriad of grants or scholarships to assist with paying for postsecondary education, but often these are not enough. Student loans provide financial assistance for students to cover the costs associated with attending a college or career school, including tuition, supplies, books, and living expenses. There are several types of loans available including need-based, non-need-based, state, and private.

Need-based loans are provided to students who are unable to pay the amount needed to cover all costs to attend college.

Need is determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which can be completed online at no cost. Need-based loans are available as a Federal Perkins Loan, awarded to students with the highest need, or a Federal Direct Subsidized Loan, provided interest-free while in college.

If FAFSA determines that a student is ineligible for a need-based loan, non-need-based loan options are available as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan or Federal Direct PLUS Loan. Unsubsidized loans allow the borrower to add interest to the total amount borrowed after graduation, but beware: this leads to owing even more money when it comes time to start paying off the loan. Direct PLUS Loans provide graduate students or parents the opportunity to borrow the total cost of attending college, minus other financial aid received.

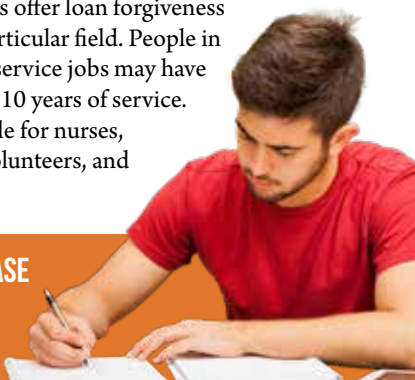
Unlike the loans mentioned above that are sponsored by the federal government, state and private loans are sponsored by banks, colleges, foundations, and state agencies. The U.S. Department of Education manages all college loans available by state and requires students to be in-state residents or enrolled in a college in that state. Private loans are an option for borrowers but come with terms and conditions that may not be as favorable as federal loans. Private loans also require a cosigner who is responsible for repaying the money if the student fails to do so.

Managing Debt After College

Student loan debt continues to increase and has become a burden on both graduates and the U.S. economy. There are a variety of loan repayment options for students. Here are some tips on how to approach repayment:

- **Figure out what you'll owe and start to save early.** Creating a budget early will allow you to build a solid foundation for repayment after graduation. Setting aside money each month toward future savings for repayment will set you up for success come graduation day.
- **Understand your repayment options.** There are several different options available to start paying off student loans based on the type of loan you received. Common federal loan plans include standard, graduated, extended, or income-based.
 - Standard plans are payments in fixed amounts that ensure that loans are paid off in 10-30 years (these payments are often very high for new graduates).
 - Graduated plans are payments that start out lower and increase every two years, also ensuring that loans are paid off within 10-30 years (based on loan). This plan assumes you'll continue to make more money as you continue your career path, so additional money is allotted to repayment as you go.
 - Extended plans may be made in a fixed amount or a graduated amount and ensure payment in full within 25 years.
 - Income-based plans take 10-15 percent of your discretionary income, and are recalculated each year. Once you are married, your spouse's income will also be considered if filing jointly on tax returns. Any outstanding balance on the loan will be forgiven after 20-25 years.
- **Consolidate for ease.** If you have multiple federal loans, consolidating them into one can make repayment easier. But there may be fees or other conditions associated with consolidating, so be sure to do your research.
- **Is forgiveness an option?** Some programs offer loan forgiveness if you meet certain criteria or work in a particular field. People in government, nonprofit, and other public-service jobs may have the remainder of their loans forgiven after 10 years of service. Additional forgiveness options are available for nurses, teachers, AmeriCorps and Peace Corps volunteers, and some state and private programs. ■

STUDENT LOAN DEBT CONTINUES TO INCREASE AND HAS BECOME A BURDEN ON BOTH GRADUATES AND THE U.S. ECONOMY.



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Fall Home Improvement

HERE ARE 12 LAST-MINUTE
FALL TASKS TO CHECK
OFF YOUR LIST.

Continued on next page >

Fall is the perfect time to tackle almost any home improvement project: you are well-rested after your summer holiday, the weather is pleasant, and with the summer heat waves over, you can finally get organized. More importantly, there are some home improvement projects that should be done during fall.

Read on to find the must-do list that any homeowner must check off before the winter chill sets in.

1. Get your mind in the gutter.

Cleaning your gutters may not be the most pleasant thing to do, but it is a necessity. Gutters divert hundreds of gallons of water away from your home. With the increased volume of leaves coming down in fall, gutters are at real risk of clogging, and this can lead to water damage to the roof and exterior of your home in addition to flooding your basement.

So, the first home improvement project to tackle this fall should be cleaning your gutters and installing gutter guards to protect them from additional debris, ensuring there will be less work to do next year.

2. Inspect your roof.

Make sure your home stays warm and dry during winter with a solid roof. Stay ahead of any roof trouble and inspect it thoroughly or, better yet, hire a professional to do it. Check that your roof has not sprung any leaks during the past year, and replace any shingles that are cracked, missing or curling. Regular



inspections and maintenance of your roof will help prolong its life. If your roof does need major repairs or replacements, consider gathering multiple estimates from reputable contractors.

3. Prepare your deck and patio for winter.

Clean your patio furniture thoroughly before putting it away for the winter. Empty the dirt in any decorative clay or ceramic pots – otherwise it can freeze and crack the pots. More importantly, check for any cracks or dents in your deck or patio. If there are any, you should fix them as a matter of priority. Any small problem you have now will grow bigger during the cold season, especially if water gets into the cracks and freezes.

Continued on page 32 >

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Deb and her team work tirelessly to serve and educate buyers, sellers and agents across Western Pennsylvania through the inspection process. It is of utmost importance that her clients know how to use their home inspection report once it is delivered; she ensures that by remaining available with open/easy communication. The fact that this team of eight

on-road inspectors and three dedicated admins can multitask so effectively is a testament to their leader. Especially valuable in today’s unique real estate market, Deb has a true 360-degree view because of her background as a buyer, seller, listing agent and real estate sales agent. This assists her in leading this business and providing peace of mind to her clients because she knows the hot buttons.

Working with someone you know, like and trust is important in business. A brief conversation with Deb will have you shaking your head that one individual can accomplish so much. And she does it with confidence, grace, and patience. Then again, this may just be the secret sauce; everyone on her team has a specialty, and they work together to ensure your peace of mind through their blended industry experience, which is incomparable. They also have a leader who treats her clients and employees like family. In fact, her son and daughter work at aHarmony Home Inspection as well.

You won’t go wrong working with Deb and her team. She’s a locally grown and well-known business owner, a true, proud “hometown” girl. She is also an accomplished publisher, best-selling author of children’s books, a volunteer, and self-esteem coach. She even finds time to provide blessing bags for the homeless. Her third book is slated to be published this summer; while it is a children’s book, it has a real estate theme. Debbie is eager to inscribe one for your child.

“I’ve been in this business for over 35 years,” Deb said. “I believe that to know is to understand, so I listen a lot. I’ve seen just about everything, and I pride myself on educating; that is what makes us so unique. Our experience, know-how, and reachability are the keys to our clients’ peace of mind.”

For more information on aHarmony Home Inspection, please go to the website KeyToPeaceOfMind.com to view the company’s mission and success stories. Or call 412.657.2191 to speak with Deb or one of her welcoming team members.





4. Paint your front door.

There are few things that enhance curb appeal like a freshly painted door, especially if the paint job is perfectly executed. Fall is a good time for many exterior painting projects, before the weather turns icy and wet. Since many fall days don't dip below freezing, it's a good way to beat the summer heat and give your entryway a brand-new look.

We recommend hiring a professional for this painting project. This way, you are guaranteed a smooth and drip-free finish on your door.

5. Paint or re-paint your interior molding or trim.

Toward the end of fall, as the weather hints of snow and rain, it's time to think about the last time you painted your molding and trim. Interior trim painting doesn't only add to your home's aesthetic, it can help cut down on dust and dirt throughout the year as well. Plus, painting your molding or trim can completely transform a room, especially when you pair a crisp, white trim with a rich wall color.

Unless you're a painting pro yourself, we recommend you hire a professional for this project. Not only will the job be completed faster, but an experienced company will also make sure there are no drips or uneven finishes.

6. Power-wash your house.

After a full spring and summer of heat and humidity, fall is a good time to consider power-washing your home. Power-washing can make sure that your siding is free of dirt, mold or mildew, and it can give your house a clean glow heading into winter.

When you use a professional to power-wash your house (which we recommend!), it will ensure that the right power settings and solutions for your home and region are used. Homeowners should always be careful when trying to DIY a power-wash, as the wrong settings can strip paint or even erode mortar or stone on your home.



7. Repair damaged wood.

After the dampness of spring and the heat of summer, fall tends to be a good time for exterior wood repair on your siding, porches or window casings. This home improvement project doesn't pack the visual punch of a new door color, but it can easily save you thousands of dollars in other damages in coming years.

Any time wood is damaged or has wet rot or dry rot on your home, there is a potential for damage to compound. For example, neglecting wet or rotted wood on your front porch can lead to sags and breaks later, or even allow moisture inside your home. For regions that tend to experience a dry fall, this is a good seasonal window to repair and seal your home before the rain and snow of winter.

Continued on page 34 >

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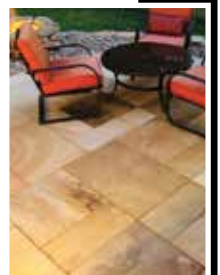
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Hire a professional for this job, since reputable wood repair companies won't settle for only repairing visibly damaged wood. They'll make sure to do a thorough inspection and remove and repair both the wood you can see and the wood you can't.

8. Caulk or re-caulk your windows and doors.

Water, bugs and drafty winds all love the nooks and crannies that unsealed or poorly sealed windows and doors provide. Like wood repair, exterior caulking and sealing isn't a project that is going to give you a noticeable visual payoff, but it can save you money on your heating and cooling bills.

If it's been a while since you've caulked and sealed around your windows and doors, this fall might be the right time. It's a project that's often simple enough for DIYers but will go much faster—and without the risk of mistakes—with a professional.

9. Re-mulch your perennials.

You already know you should mulch in late spring/early summer, but fall can also be a good time to spread one more layer to protect your flower beds until spring. Mulch will protect the base and roots of your perennials, so they come up healthy and whole next spring. The best part of this project is that it

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typically can be tackled in one day, and without the blistering sun of the summer.

10. Prep your fireplace.

If you're lucky enough to have a fireplace, fall is the right time to make sure it's in good working order for those long winter months. If you regularly maintain your fireplace, you might not have too much work to do. But if it's been several years, it's time to bring in a pro who can do a full inspection and clean and repair your chimney or flue as needed.

Fireplaces can be extremely dangerous when they're not properly maintained, and you'll want to make sure your winter is both warm and safe.

11. Check on your home's heating and air.

Don't get caught in the cold with a broken furnace – add an HVAC check to your fall home checklist. Older furnaces can be up to 50 percent less efficient than newer models.

If a replacement isn't in the cards, here are a few HVAC tips for winter from Bob Burkholder, owner and president of Burkholder's Heating and Air Conditioning:

- **Check Air Filters.** Replace your air conditioning filter before shutting it down, and stay on top of furnace filter changes throughout the heating months to keep your system working properly.
- **Clean Up Your Outdoor Unit.** If you have an outdoor unit, double-check for any debris or damage. Remove all debris around the unit to ensure the proper air flow and to prevent dirt or leaves getting on the coils or inside the unit.
- **Schedule a Tune-Up.** The number-one thing homeowners should do to make sure their HVAC system is ready for winter is to schedule a tune-up with a licensed heating and air conditioning contractor. During a tune-up, most HVAC contractors inspect, clean, and test all safety controls so you know that your equipment is operating correctly and safely.

12. Winterize your driveway and sidewalks.

Most people don't give their driveway a second thought when winterizing the home. However, snow, ice and salt can take a toll on concrete and asphalt surfaces. Make sure they're ready to be put to the test with these tips for winterizing your driveway:

- **Pull Weeds.** If grass or weeds have sprung up throughout your driveway or sidewalk, pluck them out before fixing and sealing the gaps.
- **Repair Cracks.** During the winter, water can collect in and worsen existing cracks in concrete and asphalt. Use concrete caulk to patch hairline cracks and concrete sealer to fix larger gaps. For cracks in asphalt driveways, applying asphalt crack sealer will do the trick.
- **Seal Expansion Joints.** It's important to seal concrete expansion joints with polyurethane caulk prior to wintertime to prevent water from seeping in and freezing.
- **Clean and Seal the Surface.** Before the temperatures drop below 40 degrees, pressure-wash your driveway and seal it with a concrete or asphalt sealer to prevent damage from snow and salt. ■

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The PRHS Class of 2021 participates in the graduation ceremony.



(L-R) Seniors Benjamin Carnovale (Tertiary), Rebecca Peng (Salutatorian), and Jinwon Jang (Valedictorian) prepare to accept their diplomas at graduation.

PRHS Hosts Successful Graduation

Pine-Richland High School hosted 381 graduates and their families on June 11, 2021. The weather was just perfect. Senior Jinwon Jang was the Valedictorian of the PR Class of 2021, while seniors Rebecca Peng and Benjamin Carnovale were named the Salutatorian and Tertiary respectively.

Additionally, 21 students from the Class of 2021 were named National Merit Scholars, with 1 student being named a national scholar, five being named finalists, and 16 being named commended.

This year, the PRHS Guidance Office processed over 14,335 documents and sent 2,747 teacher letters of recommendation for the Class of 2021. So far, the PRHS Class of 2021 earned \$10,697,552 in scholarships.

Junior Earns Second Place at International Science & Engineering Fair

Pine-Richland High School junior Andrew Ni won second place in the Biomedical and Health Science division of the International Science and Engineering Fair. He competed against students from all over the world to win this prestigious award and is the first student at PR to do so. He earned first at the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair. Students are encouraged to participate in the programs under the direction of Teacher Ann Gollapudi.



Andrew Ni



Forensic Team Earns State Championships

The Pine-Richland Forensics Team won the state championship for medium-sized schools at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League's virtual state championship tournament under the direction of teacher Jeff Byko. The team also took the second-place award in debate. Individually, junior Miles Brown won the overall state championship in extemporaneous speaking. Juniors Andrew Ni and Amish Sethi earned second place in the state in public forum debate, and senior Catherine Lee earned second in the prose competition. Sophomore Sreyashi Mondal took third place in the state in persuasive speaking, and sophomore Kesar Sampat earned fourth in the state in informative speaking. Also earning awards for making it to semifinal rounds were senior Anoushka Rajeev in impromptu speaking and sophomore Korey Moore in commentary. Earning awards for making the quarterfinal rounds in debate were seniors Drew Holm and Samuel Stella in public forum debate, and senior Rebecca Peng in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Seniors Laila Saah and Rori Holm also placed tenth in the Public Forum Debate, while senior Tanya Babbar placed eleventh in Poetry. In all, out of the team's 15 entries in the state tournament, 10 moved on to earn awards.



Dana Kirk

Director Earns Renewal Status as a PA Registered School Business Administrator

Pine-Richland School District Director of Finance and Operational Services Dana Kirk has been granted a renewal of her status as a Pennsylvania

Registered School Business Administrator for four years. To earn the renewal by the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Offices (PASBO), a school business official must meet high personal, ethical and professional standards established for the registration program. These include formal education, experience, and continuing education. PASBO is the state professional association of school business officials whose responsibilities include the business and service functions of public and non-public schools. Mrs. Kirk has been an integral part of the Pine-Richland School District since 2003.



The Pittsburgh Pirates name Eden Hall Upper Elementary art teacher Katelyn Tronetti an All-Star Teacher. (Photo: Katelyn Tronetti)

Teacher Named an All-Star Teacher

The Pittsburgh Pirates honored Eden Hall Upper Elementary art teacher Katelyn Tronetti via a video call on May 13, 2021.

She is being named an All-Star Teacher. Pirates Charities and Eden Hall Upper Elementary School Principal Steven Smith surprised her with the honor. She earned \$1,000, a treasure chest full of items from the pirates, a \$100 visa gift card and a custom Pittsburgh Pirates jersey. She will be recognized at two Pirate games. 2012 PRHS graduate Evan Klei also recognized her for being an inspiration.



PRHS Teacher Valerie Klosky earns second recognition in the RIT scholar program.

Teacher Earns Award from RIT as Part of Scholar Award

2017 PRHS Graduate Ingrida Ivaska is being named an Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar for completing at least 83 credit hours of studying and earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.85 for all work completed at the university as of the previous spring term.

As part of the recognition program, the scholars have the opportunity to identify a high school or community college teacher who has profoundly influenced their academic development and has been an inspiration in their lives. Ingrida selected Pine-Richland High School teacher Valerie Klosky as her honoree. As part of the recognition, Mrs. Klosky, along with Ingrida, were honored during a virtual celebration of the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Awards on March 18, 2021. Incredibly, this is the second time Mrs. Klosky earned the honor.



PRHS biology teacher Darren Myzak is a finalist in the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Teacher Earns Finalist Status in Presidential Awards Program

Pine-Richland High School biology teacher Darren Myzak is a finalist in the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Only three state-level finalists were named. A national review board will select one math and one science teacher from each state. Final results will be announced in August. The PAEMST is one of the highest honors specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics and/or computer science teaching.

What is Happening This Fall at the Library?

Northern Tier Library

Richland Center, 4015 Dickey Road,
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724.449.2665 | northerntierlibrary.org

Library Hours:

Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Bookmobile Service

Pine Tree Shoppes, 12001 Perry Highway,
Wexford, PA 15090

Bookmobile Hours:

Fridays, 12:30 to 2:45 p.m.

Pine Center

PRHS, 700 Warrendale Road,
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724.625.5655

Pine Center Hours:

Closed

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

■ LOVE YOUR LI-BEER-Y! BEER TASTING

Friday, September 10, at 7 p.m.

Join us for a LIVE beer tasting that will showcase the best brews our city has to offer. Plus, you'll take home a commemorative beer glass.

Depending on release dates, we will be featuring beers from some of these Pittsburgh innovators:

- Brew Gentlemen
- Cinderlands Beer Co.
- Dancing Gnome Brewery
- Hitchhiker Brewing Co.
- Old Thunder Brewing Co.

Each attendee will enjoy a robust Pittsburgh Charcuterie Board along with six different beers. Final choices will be determined by release dates, but will be chosen from the following:

- Light Style Pilsner
- Lager
- Hop Forward (IPA or double IPA)
- Hefeweizen
- Porter or Cream Ale

Help us bring the tasting to a sweet ending! Bring a dozen of your favorite cookies, and we will create a Pittsburgh Cookie Table to enjoy with our last beer sample.

Because this event will be held in September—Love Your Library Month—all proceeds will receive a pro-rated match from the Buncher Foundation. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased online (via our website) or at the library. Reservations will be taken until Friday, September 3.

■ TAKE-HOME CRAFT

Mondays, September 13 through October 18

Kids (and adults!) of all ages are invited to create and enjoy a simple weekly take-home craft with us. Please call or register online to reserve a weekly supply kit that can be picked up and enjoyed at home.

Registration is required each week to account for supplies.

■ THE WEEKLY PROJECT TAKE-HOME KIT

September 14 through October 19

Welcome to The Weekly Project, a program featuring a variety of activities that can be enjoyed from home, like cooking, crafting, art, and STEM. Each week will showcase a different project for children to do with their families, and will include take-home materials. This program is for kids of all ages.

Registration is required each week to account for supplies.

■ FRESH AIR STORYTIME

Wednesdays @ 10:30 a.m., September 15 through October 20; and Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m., September 16 through October 21

We will meet on our side lawn (located next to the library's parking lot) for Fresh Air Storytime featuring new stories, exciting rhymes, and a lot of fun.

We ask families to bring a blanket or foldable lawn chairs, and to observe social distancing during the program. Please bring a rattle or noise-making toy to play along with our music! Families will be able to take home an activity or craft. This program is weather permitting and will revert to a virtual storytime if the weather is unfavorable. We also request that families register.

■ EXPERIENCE KITS VIRTUAL STORYTIME

Saturdays @ 10 a.m.

Enjoy our special virtual storytime with special guest each Saturday. We will read a story that will introduce children to local history in a fun and engaging way. Following the storytime, kids will be encouraged to participate in an activity based on the story we read!

This virtual storytime is part of a series promoting the Experience Kits initiative at select Allegheny and Washington County libraries, and is sponsored by the Heinz

Center Affiliates Program (HCAP). With your library card, receive free admission passes for up to four people to several local museums and historical sites.

August 21: Passavant House

Registration is required. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3xhIVpQ>.

The Passavant House was built in 1808 and was the second oldest house in Zelienople. It had been owned by Zelig and Philippe Passavant, who were instrumental in establishing Zelienople in the early 1800s. Today the Passavant House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it serves as a museum, library, and headquarters for the Zelienople Historical Society. It features artifacts and memorabilia of the Passavant family and the town's historic past.

August 28: McKeesport Regional History & Heritage Center

Registration is required. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3dEMxdN>.

Founded in 1980, the McKeesport Regional History & Heritage Center is a nonprofit museum and research facility dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of McKeesport and its surrounding area.

The center houses the City of McKeesport's first schoolhouse, previously situated at five other locations. Five additional rooms display varying aspects of McKeesport and the Mon Valley's history, including an Industry Wing with a large-scale model of the US Steel National Tube, church collections, and an exhibit honoring Helen Richey. Peruse the nostalgic room of former store and restaurant donations and numerous nostalgic photos and paintings that will always bring to mind fond memories from the area's rich historical past.

■ CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Mark your calendar for our Halloween program on October 28 from 5 to 6 p.m.



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Exploring the forts in the woods across from Oxford Athletic Club! Photo by Kristen Handy.

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*To be considered for publication, all high-quality photos must be original size, digital format (1MB or larger) and highest resolution possible, 300 dpi preferred. Please put "Pine-Richland Photo" in the subject line of the email.



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Recent Single Family Home Sales in Pine Richland School District.

ADDRESS	YEAR BUILT	PRICE	ADDRESS	YEAR BUILT	PRICE
103 Silver Pines Dr	2014	\$1,400,000	626 Tullamore Trail	2019	\$840,000
813 Mount Pleasant Rd	2009	\$1,300,000	8006 Falcon Ct	2003	\$835,000
304 Wynfield Court	2015	\$1,250,000	611 Grandview Dr	2000	\$830,000
812 Chapel Hill Ct	2009	\$1,250,000	217 Stonecrest Court	2011	\$820,000
515 Ridge Court	2017	\$1,200,000	658 Shortline Court	1870	\$775,000
711 Parkview Drive	2007	\$1,155,000	4103 Fairway Drive	1999	\$770,000
515 Langdon Drive	2012	\$1,150,000	113 Lyndhurst Circle	1996	\$750,000
218 Murrin Ct	2019	\$1,075,000	119 Miller Dr	2018	\$750,000
2018 Cherry Road	2021	\$1,056,000	233 Whetherburn Dr	1998	\$744,000
116 Miller Dr	2018	\$1,010,100	307 Pine Wood Drive	2012	\$731,000
1756 Old State Rd	2002	\$1,010,000	231 Eddie Lewis Drive	2015	\$715,000
607 Grandview Dr	2004	\$1,000,000	208 Gander Dr	2000	\$690,000
302 Wynfield Court	2007	\$995,000	225 Tamarack Dr	2017	\$676,500
501 Blueberry Trl	2007	\$965,000	210 Gander Rd	2001	\$675,000
221 Whetherburn Dr	1998	\$915,000	338 Ivy Dr	2001	\$675,000
116 Snowberry Lane	1993	\$880,000	413 Heights Drive	1991	\$669,500
252 Whetherburn Dr	1999	\$875,000	110 Miller Drive	2020	\$662,537
202 Summit Circle	1995	\$860,000	113 Clover Lane	2008	\$660,550
4101 Fairway Drive	1997	\$850,000	236 Eddie Lewis Drive	2016	\$660,000
800 Whitetail Cr	2019	\$850,000	238 Tamarack	2020	\$658,565

MLS DATA provided by Linda Honeywill Associate Broker. Information is not complete or guaranteed.



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