

Your Community  
Newsletter



January/February 2018

# Swissvale NEWS

Community News for the Borough of Swissvale



*Happy New Year!*

[www.swissvaleborough.com](http://www.swissvaleborough.com)

## ADVERTISING AND PUBLISHING REQUESTS

All requests must be submitted by the first of the month prior to the issue in which it will appear.

### 2018 Deadlines:

March/April—February 1  
May/June—April 1  
July/August—June 1  
September/October—August 1  
November/December—October 1

Please submit all questions and materials to Sarah:  
news@swissvaleborough.com  
412-271-7101

Editor and Advertising Manager:  
Sarah Ansell

Printer: Krohmaly's

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Celebrating 60 Years!

## 412-271-4234

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Goodfellas Restaurant and Tavern



# EAST SHORE

"EastShore - Explore a New Side of Pittsburgh"  
For EastShore information go to  
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For information regarding the Enterprise Zone Corp.  
of Braddock go to [www.exzcb.org](http://www.exzcb.org) or call 412-371-6380.

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# BOROUGH UPDATE

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

MICHELE K. STANTON, *President*  
DAVID PETRARCA, *Vice President*  
MARTIN F. BUSCH  
PATRICIA L. GIONTA  
JULIE A. GROSE  
DARRELL RAPP  
TIM WARD

Swissvale Borough Administrative Office  
7560 Roslyn Street, Swissvale • 412-271-7101  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
[www.swissvaleborough.com](http://www.swissvaleborough.com)

## BOROUGH OFFICERS

DENEEN SWARTZWELDER, *Mayor*  
CLYDE WILHELM, *Borough Manager*  
GREG BACHY, *Assistant Manager*  
ROBERT L. MCTIERNAN, *Solicitor*  
DIANE M. TURLEY, *Treasurer*

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER**

First and foremost, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Winter is now underway and let's hope we have a mild one.

The Borough Council passed another balanced budget this year without raising taxes! The total of our General, Motor License, Sewer and Capital Funds amounted to \$9.2 million. This is up a little more than 3% from the previous year. Unfortunately, ALCOSAN has again raised their sewage rates by 7.5%. This increase will affect everyone's water bill in Allegheny County. Budgets are available on the borough's website for review.

There are lots of exciting things happening for 2018. We received many grants this past year toward capital improvement projects that will be started in 2018. Those projects include the demolition of the GAR home, the reconstruction of Woodlawn and Prospect streets, S. Braddock Avenue pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements including a cross walk at Sanders and S. Braddock, the Collingwood Park rehabilitation and the streetscape improvements on Noble Street. The cost of these projects will total over \$2 million, but the borough's share is only about \$200,000.

The long awaited Kenmawr Bridge project will likely go to bid in June, which means the \$13 million project could be started as early as this fall.

I would like to give a sincere and special thank you to Senator Jay Costa and State Representative Paul Costa for helping the borough in so many ways and especially for their help in obtaining the five grants to fund these much needed projects.

We look forward to welcoming Abigail Salisbury as a new member of council in January. The borough would also like to thank Martin Busch for his many years of service. As always, thank you to all of our elected officials and staff for their continued efforts to make Swissvale such a great community!

## Law Offices Of KATHLEEN D. SCHNEIDER

Attorney / Certified Public Accountant

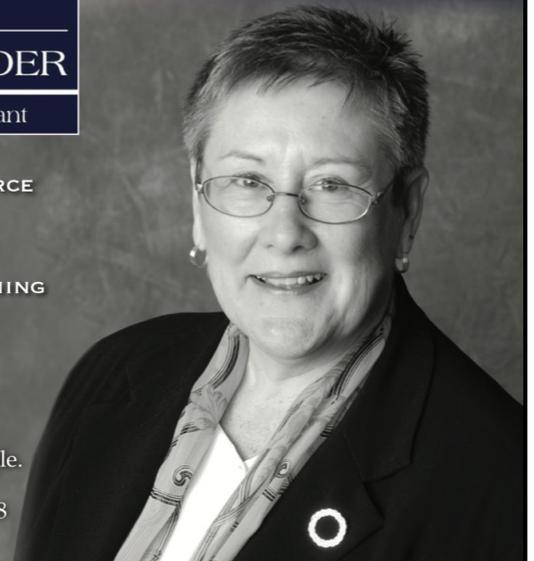
- ◆ ADOPTION
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- ◆ GAY/LESBIAN ISSUES
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# FIRE DEPARTMENT

7400 Irvine Street, Swissvale, PA 15218  
412-271-0448  
www.swissvalefire.org

## Your Safety is Our Focus!

### SFD RECEIVES HIGH RATING

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) recently issued a new Public Protection Class (PPC) rating for Swissvale. The PPC Program evaluates public fire protection services and provides an objective, nationwide standard that classifies a community's ability to suppress fires. ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents superior property fire protection and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

ISO's PPC program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. So the PPC program helps fire departments and other public officials measure the effectiveness of their efforts.

The SFD was evaluated in August and received a new ISO-PPC rating of Class 2 (effective 3/1/18), having shown significant improvements since its evaluation in 2013 when it received a Class 3 rating!

Of Allegheny County's 130 municipalities, only two departments are rated higher—the City of Pittsburgh and Mt. Lebanon are rated as Class 1.

To better demonstrate this accomplishment consider this: of the 44,672 fire departments in the United States, only 270 have a higher rating and of the 2,488 fire departments in Pennsylvania, only 5 have a higher rating. Swissvale has the highest rating of any borough department in the state.

Virtually all U.S. insurers of homes and business property use

the ISO PPC rating in calculating premiums. Generally, insurance premiums are lower in communities with a good PPC rating, assuming all other factors are equal.

Fire Chief Clyde Wilhelm congratulated his firefighters on their new rating at their annual Christmas party. "This new rating is a result of the collective efforts of all members of the department. This accomplishment is something they all should be proud of." The chief also noted the department will work to improve its rating even further to Class 1 by 2020.



### LENTEN FISH FRY

The FD will hold its annual Lenten Fish Fry from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) and every Friday in Lent at the fire station (7400 Irvine Street). Menus are available on the website. Delivery will be available for lunch and dinner. The food is so popular that it often sells out. Go early and call ahead!

412-271-8787 (phone)

412-271-1451 (fax)



### CPR CLASSES

The next class is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, January 13. Teaching will include adult CPR, child CPR, first aid and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). The class is free to borough residents. Nonresidents are welcome for a nominal fee.

To sign up, contact the FD by January 6 at 412-271-0448. If you are not able to attend but are still interested, contact Assistant Chief Kip Deleonibus for future class dates.

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Swissvale, PA 15218  
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Mark Foerster, (412) 496-7115

**rivercity church**



 Sundays  6 p.m.

 2037 Noble St | Swissvale, PA

 rivercitypgh@gmail.com

 rivercitypgh.com

Worship | Community | Service

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

7560 Roslyn Street, Swissvale, PA 15218  
412-271-0350



## Christmas Tree Recycling

Beginning January 2 and continuing through January 19, crews from the Department of Public Works will collect Christmas trees throughout the borough. Trees should be placed with your trash on your regular trash day. They will be collected separately from trash sometime during that day. Please make sure that your tree is free of ornaments and tinsel. All trees will be shredded into mulch. Any resident who would like to obtain the mulch for their personal use may call 412-271-0350 to make arrangements.

## Belgium Block Available for Purchase

The borough continues to sell the Belgium Block that was removed from Lacrosse Street. These blocks are great for edging and landscaping and allow you to have a little piece of Swissvale history on your property. Blocks are available for \$1.50 each. Order forms can be found on the website or in the borough administrative office at 7560 Roslyn Street.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

7560 Roslyn Street, Swissvale, PA 15218  
9-1-1



Pictured left to right: Officer Ford, Officer Druskin, Officer Indovina, Sgt. Hahn, Officer Brown, Officer Hendry

## POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES 9TH PLATINUM AWARD

The police department was recently awarded AAA's prestigious Platinum Community Traffic Safety Award for its community traffic safety efforts for the ninth consecutive year. The award was given to "commendable leaders" for their safety efforts and enforcement activities. "We are very proud of the departments for their achievement and participation in the Community Traffic Safety Program," said J.J. Miller, AAA safety adviser. "They went above and beyond the call of duty by organizing projects which would make their community a safer place for motorists as well as local residents."

To be eligible for the annual award, a community must conduct traffic safety promotions and educate the public on safety topics. The recognition results from a proactive approach to traffic safety by the police department and participation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to monitor traffic issues and conditions.

## KEEP YOUR VEHICLE SAFE THIS WINTER

The Police Department would like to remind residents of the dangers of leaving unattended vehicles running. Not only are you taking a chance of having your vehicle stolen, but leaving your unattended vehicle running is against the law. Section 3701 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code states:

*(a) General rule--No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit the vehicle to stand unattended without placing the gear shift lever in a position which under the circumstances impedes the movement of the vehicle, stopping the engine, locking the ignition in vehicles so equipped, removing the key from the ignition and, when standing upon any grade, turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway and effectively setting the brake.*

A vehicle only needs to be left running for a few seconds to be stolen. Here are tips to decrease theft of items from your vehicle and the theft of your vehicle:

- Do not leave your car running with the key in the ignition unattended.
- Roll up the windows and lock the vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Use your garage to park, rather than for storage.
- Never leave young children unattended in your vehicle.
- Do not leave items such as computers, purses or other expensive items visible in the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

# SWISSVALE IMPROVEMENT PARTNERS

## PORT AUTHORITY'S PROPOSED BRT SYSTEM COULD BE BAD NEWS FOR SWISSVALE BUS RIDERS

The Port Authority of Allegheny County is poised to vote on a new transit program to facilitate faster transportation between Downtown and Oakland, called the BRT or Bus Rapid Transit. This is good news for some riders, but BAD news if you live in Swissvale and depend on public transportation. Here are the direct consequences of the proposed BRT on Swissvale ridership:

- Frequency of 61 A, B and C will be reduced by 45% or more.
- 61s will no longer provide a direct route to downtown. Riders will have to transfer in Oakland and potentially have to pay an additional fare or transfer fee.
- The P3 (formerly the EBO, East Busway - Oakland) will be eliminated completely.
- The distance between current bus stops will be increased to no less than a ¼ mile.
- The long promised extension of the East Busway to serve riders beyond Swissvale in the Mon Valley is not mentioned in the plans.

Local economic development organizations and community groups, including the Mon Valley Initiative (MVI), Swissvale Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO) and Swissvale Community Action Committee (SCAC) have concerns with this proposal because it is counterproductive to the goal of attracting new residents and businesses to the area. Instead, these organizations would like to see more positive changes to the transit system in our area that would make public transportation to and from Swissvale and the Mon Valley more seamless and affordable, including the extension of the East Busway. This would increase the viability of the region's development and the value of the Port Authority's public transit system as a whole.

If you are concerned about the impact of this project on Swissvale and our surrounding communities, here's what you can do:

- Visit: [www.PittsburghforPublicTransit.org](http://www.PittsburghforPublicTransit.org) for information on what is being done to keep public transit in the Pittsburgh area fair and equitable for all communities.
- Attend the Port Authority Board Meeting on 1/26/18 where the proposal will be discussed and a final decision will be made. The meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at 345 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue downtown.
- Contact County Executive Rich Fitzgerald at 412-350-6500 or [executive@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:executive@alleghenycounty.us).
- Contact the Port Authority at: 412-442-2000, [www.portauthority.org](http://www.portauthority.org).
- Spread the word to your fellow bus riders.



*Crews from Mon Valley Initiative worked to rehabilitate this house in the 7300 block of Whipple Avenue.*

Many of us are hoping for a refund when we file our 2017 tax return. Do you have plans on how to spend yours? If you're renting an apartment or living with relatives, Jonathan Weaver wants you to consider putting your refund toward a down payment on a home in Swissvale.

"When you get your tax rebate check, you naturally want to spend the whole thing on something fun," says Weaver, a housing counselor with Mon Valley Initiative. "If you're renting, I'm suggesting to put a portion of your refund aside and invest in your future in 2018."

MVI partners with Swissvale Economic Development Corp. to rehabilitate homes and commercial buildings, provide financial coaching and job placement services.

MVI's housing counseling program provides advice about applying for a mortgage, getting a home inspection, working with a real estate agent and avoiding problems in the home-buying process. The program is supported with a grant from Citizens Bank.

"For people who do decide to buy a house, we want to make sure they have a good experience and hopefully encourage them to stay in the Mon Valley," he says.

For information about housing counseling at MVI or to be notified when the next homebuyer's club is scheduled, call 412-464-4000 or [jweaver@monvalleyinitiative.com](mailto:jweaver@monvalleyinitiative.com).

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# Community Spotlight

## **WILKINS SCHOOL**

### **COMMUNITY CENTER**

7604 Charleston Street  
www.wscppgh.org  
412-244-8458

The Wilkins School Community Center is a community where everyone is welcome; a space where children and adults dance, sing and play music together; a place where many cultures share their heritage and traditions through dance, potlucks, cooking, fitness and language classes. It is a space for community and family events, a meeting place for local civic organizations and other local non-profits. Visit the WSCC to meet - play - learn - grow.

### **International Potluck**

6 p.m.—9 p.m. on January 20  
Join us for a wonderful night of international food and drinks. Meet some of the most interesting people in Pittsburgh who also happen to be great cooks! Please bring an international dish (appetizer, main dish, dessert) or drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). Please consider donating \$3 at the event.

### **Maxo Vanka Mural Trip**

10 a.m.—1 p.m. on January 27  
\$40 members, \$50 non-members.  
Leave from the WSCC at 10:15 a.m. for an hour-long, docent-led tour of the Maxo Vanka Murals at St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church in Millvale. Return to WSCC by 12:45 p.m. Register by January 15 at wscppgh.org.

### **WSCC Board Recruitment Night**

7 p.m. on February 7  
Join us for a board recruitment night. Learn about WSCC history and programming as well as current and future board and volunteer needs. Bring your ideas and any materials you want to share.

## **EastShore – Explore A New Side Of Pittsburgh**



“EastShore – Explore a New Side of Pittsburgh” was unveiled at a recent kick-off event at the Grand View Golf Club in North Braddock. The Enterprise Zone Corp. of Braddock (EZCB) is partnering with Peoples Natural Gas and Z Brand Group on an initiative designed to revitalize and promote the communities the zone serves: Braddock, North Braddock, Rankin and Swissvale. At the event, the new EastShore logo, website, street banners and window decals were presented.

Presenters from the EZCB gave an overview of economic development activities that have been taking place in recent years resulting in new businesses and jobs. It was also noted that in some residential neighborhoods housing sale prices are rising. EastShore is an initiative to highlight the transformation taking place in the four communities and provide an identity for the area. Other neighborhoods in the Pittsburgh area have been successful in highlighting their areas – like South Side, North Shore, Bakery Square and The Avenues of the Steel Valley.

“EastShore is a new identity we are promoting as the area rejuvenates and grows,” said Julie Grose, a Swissvale councilwoman and Enterprise Zone board member. She continued, “Each of our four neighborhoods have their own unique characteristics and assets. We’re working together with elected officials from the four boroughs, businesses and residents to bring attention to this area. It is four neighborhoods, one community working together. People are very receptive and enthusiastic about the future of EastShore and these neighborhoods.”

To review the new EastShore website, go to [www.eastshorepgh.com](http://www.eastshorepgh.com).



The Swissvale Community Action Committee (SCAC) is comprised of impassioned residents who love where they live. The mission is to create connections between residents, government, businesses and other community organizations. Through these connections, we aim to elevate the image of Swissvale throughout the region as a wonderful place to live and work.

SCAC meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at 2011 Noble Street. Snacks are provided.

Join us and learn more at:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/swissvalecac/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/swissvalecac/)

### **SWISSVALE CARES FOOD PANTRY**

*“Helping People Help Themselves”*  
Greater Swissvale Food Pantry  
2011 Noble Street, Swissvale  
412-452-2792

Food Pantry distributions are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

*Are you in need of food? Stop by.  
Do you have time to help a neighbor? Consider volunteering.  
We welcome all volunteers. Stop in.  
Packing days are 5 p.m. on the day before distributions.*

*For updates follow us on Twitter:  
@swissvalecares1*

# CALENDAR

## January

- 1 New Year's Day—Office Closed
- 2 Council Reorganization Meeting (6:30 p.m.)  
Christmas Tree Recycling begins
- 4 CARES Food Pantry distribution
- 8 Ask A Lawyer—Union Baptist Church
- 11 Union Baptist Food Pantry distribution  
Hairspray Jr.—WH Jr/Sr High School
- 12 Hairspray Jr.—WH Jr/Sr High School
- 13 CPR Class—Fire Department  
Hairspray Jr.—WH Jr/Sr High School
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 16 SCAC meeting
- 18 CARES Food Pantry distribution
- 19 Christmas Tree Recycling ends
- 20 International Potluck—WSCC  
Ask A Lawyer Seminar—Union Baptist
- 21 Book Lunch—Library
- 26 Port Authority Board Meeting
- 27 Maxo Vanka Mural Trip—WSCC
- 31 Agenda Meeting

## February

- 1 March/April Newsletter Deadline  
CARES Food Pantry distribution
- 2 Community Coffeehouse—Pgh Menn.
- 3 Blessing of Throats—Word of God
- 7 Council Meeting  
WSCC Board Recruitment Night
- 8 Union Baptist Food Pantry distribution
- 12 Ask A Lawyer—Union Baptist Church
- 14 Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day  
Soup & Pie Dinner—Swissvale Pres.  
Fish Fry—Madonna/Fire Department
- 15 CARES Food Pantry distribution
- 16 Fish Fry—Madonna/Fire Department  
Stations of the Cross—Madonna/WOG
- 19 Presidents Day
- 20 SCAC meeting
- 23 Fish Fry—Madonna/Fire Department  
Stations of the Cross—Madonna/WOG
- 28 Agenda Meeting



# WHSD

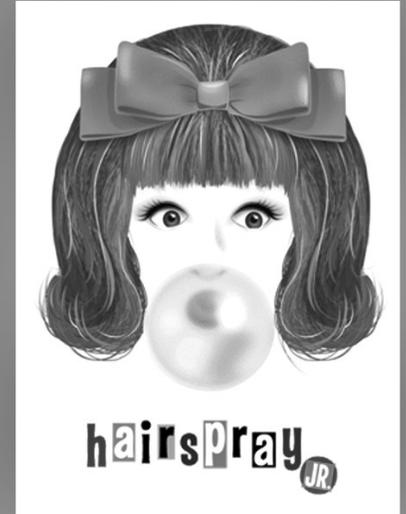
District Administrative Office  
531 Jones Avenue, N. Braddock, PA 15104  
412-731-1300  
www.whsd.net

The WH Intermediate School is partnering with the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association in all 5<sup>th</sup> grade science classes for an educational collaboration. In January, students will learn about landforms and ecosystems. The NMRWA will provide an instructor to teach children about watersheds, water quality and wetlands. Students will take a field trip into the watershed to see firsthand what they have studied and to work to clear encroaching growth. This valuable partnership will give students an authentic connection between their learning and the real world. The Intermediate School hopes to make this partnership a permanent part of the science curriculum.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sessions of the PAAR (Pittsburgh Action Against Rape) will take place on Tuesday, January 16 and Thursday, February 15 in the Intermediate Library. Each session runs from 6 to 8 p.m. and is sponsored by Communities in Schools. The purpose is to learn helpful information, have healthy discussions and fellowship with other parents. Parents will learn how to promote safe and respectful behaviors, recognize questionable behaviors in adults, intervene in warning sign behaviors and talk with children about relationships, age appropriate sexual development, sexual abuse prevention and healthy sexuality. The PAAR sessions are open to all parents.

February 2 will be the Intermediate's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Jump Rope for Hearts event. Students are sponsored to participate in a jump rope and hoops event, which raises money for the American Heart Association. The event is organized by PE teacher Mrs. Bynum-Ratliff.

## The Woodland Hills Junior Musical



**JANUARY 11-13, 2018**  
IN THE THOMAS G. CRONE  
AUDITORIUM  
AT WOODLAND HILLS JUNIOR  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The Woodland Hills Junior Musical *Hairspray Jr.* will be presented at 7 p.m. on January 11-13 and 2 p.m. on January 13 in the Thomas G. Crone Auditorium at Woodland Hills Junior Senior High School. The box office is open from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the door or by calling 412-256-3335.

### SWISSVALE SENIOR CENTER

7350 McClure Avenue  
412-731-6125  
Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A variety of activities are offered weekly. Stop by to get the complete schedule and information about the lunch program. Anyone over the age of 60 is welcome!

- 9 a.m. on M, W, F—Exercise group
- 10:30 a.m. on W—Nickel Bingo
- 11:30 a.m. on M, W, F—Hot lunch served at no cost! A donation of \$1.50 is suggested, but optional.
- 12:30 p.m. on M, F—Bingo
- Fresh popcorn on Wednesdays!*

# Swissvale Ministerium

**CALVARY APOSTOLIC CHURCH**  
2464 Woodstock Ave • 412-657-2792  
Pastor Tony Mansinho

**Regular Worship Schedule:**

Sundays  
10:30 a.m.—Sunday School  
11 a.m.—Word & Worship Service

**Wednesdays:**

7:30 p.m.—Bible Study

**Special Events:**

**AMEN Men's Meeting**  
8 to 9 a.m.—1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month.

**The New Me**

Noon to 2 p.m.—2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Ladies Ministry.

**Follow us on Facebook:**

@CalvaryApostolicChurch  
@BrandNewMe2015  
@RevoltYouthGroup

**NEW COVENANT  
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

7419 McClure Avenue  
412-242-7301  
Rev. Louis N. Otey, Senior Pastor

**Regular Worship Schedule:**

Sundays  
9 a.m.—Sunday School  
10 a.m.—Corporate Prayer  
10:30 a.m.—Sunday Worship

**Wednesdays:**

7:30 p.m.—Bible Study

*"Building Strong Families, Equipping Leaders, Proclaiming the Gospel."*

**CITYREACH CHURCH**

7327 McClure Avenue • 412-326-9212  
cansell@cityreachnetwork.org  
www.swissvale.cityreachnetwork.org

**Regular Worship Schedule:**

10:30 a.m. on Sundays  
Childcare and children's church

**Tuesdays:** (Beginning January 9)

6:30 p.m.—Life Groups  
*Praying with Confidence Small Group*—Do you want an authentic connection with God but struggle to know where to begin? Join us as we dive into Jeff Leake's book *Praying with Confidence* as we seek to improve our avenue of communication with God. This Small Group will run from January 9 – February 27 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights. Childcare is provided.

**New Sermon Series**

*Jesus in the Old Testament*



Christ walked the earth 2,000 years ago, but hundreds of years before his birth there are writings that attest to his coming. Join us from January 7 – February 25 as we look at the writings of the Old Testament that highlight God's plan for salvation long before the arrival of the Savior.

**"Like" us on Facebook  
@CityReachSwissvale**

**MADONNA DEL CASTELLO &  
WORD OF GOD PARISH**

Madonna: 2021 S. Braddock Avenue  
412-271-5666

www.madonnadelcastello.org

WOG: 7446 McClure Avenue  
412-241-1372

wordofgodpa@gmail.com

**Special Events:**

**Eucharistic Adoration**

8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.—January 19,  
Madonna Church  
Eucharistic Adoration in solidarity with the National March for Life.

**Blessing of Throats**

9:30 a.m.—February 3, Word of God Church and after all Masses on the weekend of February 3 & 4.

**Ash Wednesday**

February 14

8 a.m.—Mass at Madonna

Noon—Service with Ashes at Word of God Church

7 p.m.—Mass at Madonna

**Lenten Fish Fries**

Noon to 7 p.m.—Beginning Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent except Good Friday. Madonna's Dattilo Hall. Call in orders to 412-271-3959. Children's menu and take-out. Deliveries made within a reasonable distance until 2 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross**

February 16, 23 and March 2

Noon—Word of God

7 p.m.—Madonna

**PGH MENNONITE CHURCH**

2018 S. Braddock Avenue  
412-271-2104  
contact@pittsburghmennonite.org  
www.pittsburghmennonite.org

**Regular Worship Schedule:**

10:30 a.m. on Sundays



**Special Events:**

**Community Coffeehouse**

**"Bring Your Light" 7 p.m.—February 2**

In the darkest part of the year, when hope is hard to come by, let's share with each other the creative sparks that keep us living. So, COME! Bring your song, your poem, your rap, your instrument, your art, your dance, your love. BRING YOUR LIGHT to the Community Coffeehouse.

To participate, send an email containing your name, the title of your piece and the subject "coffeehouse" to contact@pittsburghmennonite.org.

Enter on Dickson Street through the red double doors. Handicapped entrance in the back alley.

# Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

## RIVER CITY CHURCH

2037 Noble Street • 412-501-3161  
rivercitypgh@gmail.com  
www.rivercitypgh.com

**Regular Worship Schedule:**  
6 p.m. on Sundays

## SWISSHELM PARK PRIMITIVE

### METHODIST CHURCH

241 Homestead Avenue  
412-751-0930  
www.swisshelmparkpmchurch.com

**Regular Worship:**  
10:30 a.m. on Sundays

## SWISSVALE BAPTIST CHURCH

7417 Schoyer Avenue  
412-731-9646

**Regular Worship Schedule:**  
Sundays  
10 a.m.—Sunday School  
11 a.m.—Worship Service

*"Shining Forth the Light of the  
Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ"*

## SWISSVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1825 Monongahela Avenue • 412-351-0900  
Swissvale.Presby.Church.Office@gmail.com

### Eucharist Schedule:

11 a.m.—January 28—Winter  
7 p.m.—February 14—Ash Wednesday

### Triangle Hoagie Sales

Battleship Subs (6") from Swissvale's famous  
Triangle Bar & Grill for \$7. Contact the church  
office to order. Last day to order: Feb 4, Pick-up  
Date: Feb 7.

## UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

2117 Collingwood Avenue  
412-271-3900  
info@unionbaptist.org  
www.unionbaptistpgh.org

**Regular Worship Schedule:**  
10 a.m. on Sundays

**Mondays:**  
7 p.m.—Bible Study

**Daughters of the King:**  
6:30 p.m.—1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of  
each month.  
Bible study for women ages 18 and  
older. Great discussion and fellow-  
ship. Learn practical ways to apply  
God's Word to your everyday life!

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast:**  
9 a.m.—2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each  
month.

**Line Dancing:**  
9 a.m.—Every Saturday (except  
2<sup>nd</sup>) of each month.

**Foodbank:**  
Union Baptist Church is part of  
the Greater Pittsburgh Community  
Foodbank and has a food pantry  
that serves the Swissvale area. The  
pantry serves more than 100  
families every month.

**Food distribution is the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday of each month.  
Need food? Contact us at  
412-638-8336.**

New applicants need photo ID,  
proof of Swissvale residency and  
proof of income.

## ASK A LAWYER

You can consult with a lawyer  
free of charge. Areas of law  
covered by the free consultation  
are: Bankruptcy, Civil Rights,  
Contracts, Employment, Family,  
Immigration, Landlord/Tenant, Real  
Estate Property, Unemployment  
Compensation and Wills/Estate  
Planning.

**Hours: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month in  
the Union Baptist Church Annex.  
Walk-in or by appointment.**

Services that are NOT provided  
free of charge include: Drafting  
contracts/leases; representing  
individuals or businesses in a legal  
dispute; drafting or filing any  
pleadings; filling out any paperwork  
or legal documents.

Call 412-278-7161 for more  
information or to schedule  
an appointment.

## Special Event:

**Ask A Lawyer**  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.—January 20  
FREE seminar at 2116 Collingwood  
Ave. Topics to be discussed  
include: *Landlord/Tenant, Estate  
Planning, Bankruptcy and Child  
Custody.* Come out and get your  
questions answered and learn more  
about these topics. Breakfast will be  
served.

**Call 412-278-7161 for more  
information and to reserve a  
seat.**

## Regular Worship Schedule:

Sundays  
10 a.m.—Adult Bible Study  
11 a.m.—Worship Service  
11:15 a.m.—Children's Sunday School

## Special Events:

### Ash Wednesday—Soup & Pie Dinner

6 p.m.—February 14  
Start the 2018 Lenten Season with a light meal consisting of  
various homemade soups and pies. Stay for a brief worship  
and communion service at 7 p.m.





## THE GREEN CORNER

### NMRWA

#### CHOOSING THE RIGHT SALT

Like trimming your lawn in the summer or raking leaves in the fall, salting your walkways in the winter is an annual ritual. Sodium chloride (rock salt) is the most inexpensive and commonly used salt for removing ice from walkways, but it can also have unintended effects on your landscape, masonry and pets.

There are less harmful options for de-icing without the negative impacts of sodium chloride. Two alternative options are calcium chloride and magnesium chloride based products. Calcium chloride is less harmful to trees than rock salt, comes in pellet form and works below 0 degrees F. However, it can also be a skin irritant and over-zealous application can damage concrete, meaning moderation is key in its use.

Magnesium chloride works down to -13 degrees F and is less damaging to concrete, less toxic to plants and less corrosive to metals than any other salt.

Additionally, although they can be more expensive and harder to find, products containing potassium chloride as the primary melting agent are the friendliest solution overall. These types of ice-melting products cause no harm to vegetation or pets and are safe for skin contact.

Finally, as a general rule of thumb, most pet-friendly de-icing salts are less harmful to plants, metal and masonry as well, but be sure to check the label to understand the active melting ingredients and effective temperature range.

### SWISSVALE SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[www.swissvaleborough.com/about/shade-tree-committee.aspx](http://www.swissvaleborough.com/about/shade-tree-committee.aspx)

The Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee sponsored a tree care event on November 4. Volunteers and committee members weeded and mulched around the bases of 18 trees near Dickson School on Schoyer Avenue. The borough provided the mulch, while Nine Mile Run Watershed Association loaned the tools. Weather was beautiful and we had a successful morning. Younger trees need TLC to establish their roots and to thrive. Many thanks to our volunteers, NWRWA and the borough!

SSTAC welcomed visitors from the new Penn Hills tree commission to our November meeting. It's great to know that so many neighboring municipalities and boroughs support the environment with a commitment to maintaining urban trees.

SSTAC members are preparing a grant application to Tree Vitalize for next year's tree planting efforts. The committee is looking for other funding opportunities, as well, to add to the borough's tree canopy. We did not receive a grant from Tree Vitalize this year, because they only funded City of Pittsburgh projects. All tree request forms from residents will be kept on file for future tree plantings as money becomes available.

When mature trees become diseased, their removal decreases the overall canopy. A healthy mixture of different tree species and young/older trees improves the urban forest for everyone's benefit.

The committee will apply for Tree City USA status again for 2018. In 2017 we were pleased to hold the first Arbor Day event here and are planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration as a Tree City this spring. SSTAC and the community can join together to care for trees in the borough.




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# CARNEGIE FREE LIBRARY

1800 Monongahela Avenue, Swissvale, PA 15218

412-731-2300 • [www.swissvalelibrary.org](http://www.swissvalelibrary.org)

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays



## **NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK!**

We've done some rearranging at the library. All of the changes will make browsing easier and create room for what readers, watchers and listeners are looking for.

**New Books**—Check out the library's "New Book" area. You can pick up your favorite author's newest titles and discover authors you haven't read.

**New Website**—Check out the new website at [swissvalelibrary.org](http://swissvalelibrary.org). It's attractive and easy to use. Many thanks to staffers Roberta and Cece for their work creating the site.

**Donate to the Library**—We are happy to accept gently used and good-condition books and DVDs. Books more than 20 years old or damaged cannot be accepted.

## **LIBRARY PROGRAMS:**

### **For Kids**

**Little Listeners**—The youngest book fans can exchange their lists for prizes. You can help your child or grandchild participate. Just read 15 books to him or her and list the titles on the form.

**Preschool Classes**—11 a.m. on Mondays. Ages 3 to 5 yr olds—stories, games and fun activities.

**Games**—4 p.m. on Mondays. All school-age kids. Board games with Miss Bonnie.

**Saturday Fun**—1 p.m. All school-age kids. A new game or activity every week!

**Kids' DVDs**—Check out the new shelves for children's DVDs. They are located in the children's library under the windows.

### **For Everyone**

**Wizard**—7 p.m. on Saturdays beginning in February. Wizard is a fun game for the entire family.

### **For Adults**

**Puzzle Solvers**—The world is full of jigsaw puzzles and a lot of them pass through the Swissvale Library. The bin is inside the front door—put one in and/or take one out!

**Book Bucks**—Read books, fill out the form, come to the May auction and win prizes!

**Book Lunch**—1 p.m. on January 21. Sign the desk list (after New Year) and show up with your library card. Bonnie will pitch books and movies while you enjoy lunch!

**Movie Fans**—This year's Oscar nominations will soon be announced and the library will have a contest. The best guesser will win \$25. Pick up a contest form at the front desk.

**Computer Tutoring**—Free for adults of all ages. Computer tutor Carolyn Luck provides half-hour sessions. Call the library to sign up for your first session.

**Book Discussion Groups**—Consider joining one of the library's four book clubs! Lists for all four clubs are available at the library front desk. Book clubs are open to new members and meet monthly:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday—7 p.m. in the main library.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday—3 p.m. in the senior center.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday—Mysteries! 2 p.m. in the main library.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday—Mysteries! 7 p.m. in the senior center.

**The Library is CLOSED**  
**January 1 & 15**  
**February 19**



The New Me is a privately-owned non-profit organization out of Calvary Apostolic Church located on Woodstock Ave.

Our mission is community outreach. We try to meet the needs of people in the community the best way we can.

Find more information on our website:

[Thenewme2015.org](http://Thenewme2015.org)

## **Thomas L. Nied** **FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

7441 Washington Street • Swissvale, PA 15218

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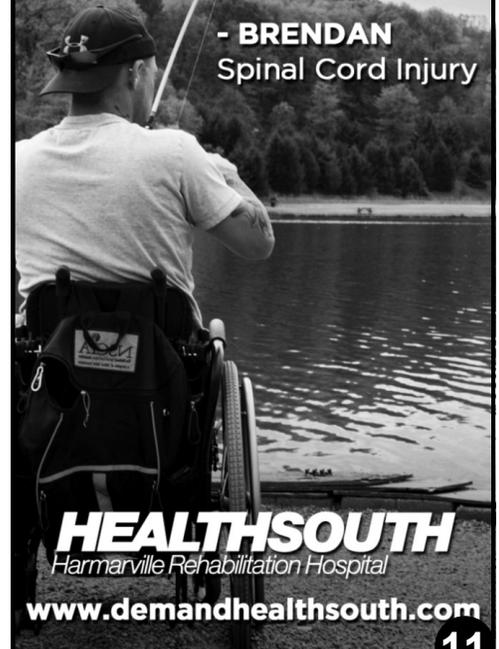
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# 2017 Snapshot

- (1) The Carnegie Free Library of Swissvale celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a variety of activities.
- (2) The Volunteer Fire Department's Fish Fry beat out N. Braddock to achieve Elite Eight status in an NCAA-style competition bracket featured on TheIncline.com. Even native Swissvalian and comedian Bill Gardell joined in the fun.
- (3) Swissvale was named a 2017 Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities.
- (4) The building commonly known to locals as "Frankie's" located at the corner of Church Street and S. Braddock Avenue was demolished after years of sitting vacant. The borough is working with local business owners to transform the plot into a usable green space.
- (5) The borough received four awards from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs for excellence in the categories of Social Media, Newsletter, Website and Special Recognition.
- (6) Swissvale was designated a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day foundation thanks to the work of the Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee, borough staff and council.
- (7) The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Swissvale Mile and Community Days drew record numbers despite a rainy Friday night.
- (8) The Swissvale Farmer's Market celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> season with fresh produce, prepared foods and crafts.

