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OF THE ALLEGHENY VALLEY

FREE

ISSUE #7

TARENTUM MAGAZINE

FEATURING:

**The Sultan's
Sweet Success**

Reaches Foreign Shores

**Our Missing Link – The Most
Elaborate and Expensive
Interchange in PA**

**Tips to Stay Safe this October
for Fire Prevention Month**



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ADVERTISING POLICY

Tarentum Borough Magazine was created for the Tarentum Borough and the Crossroads of the Allegheny Valley. The Tarentum Recreation Board and Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising that goes against our standards. Advertisement is meant for all businesses, fundraising and etc. not for political or religious issues.

Our magazine is distributed but not limited to: all advertisers in this magazine. Thank you to all the advertisers and readers that support the Tarentum Magazine - Crossroads of the Allegheny Valley

MISSION

Tarentum Borough Magazine was created for Tarentum Borough residents and surrounding communities to enjoy and engage in the good works and pleasures of others. Tarentum Borough Magazine is available online and in print. The magazine promotes community values that make Tarentum Borough an asset to all.

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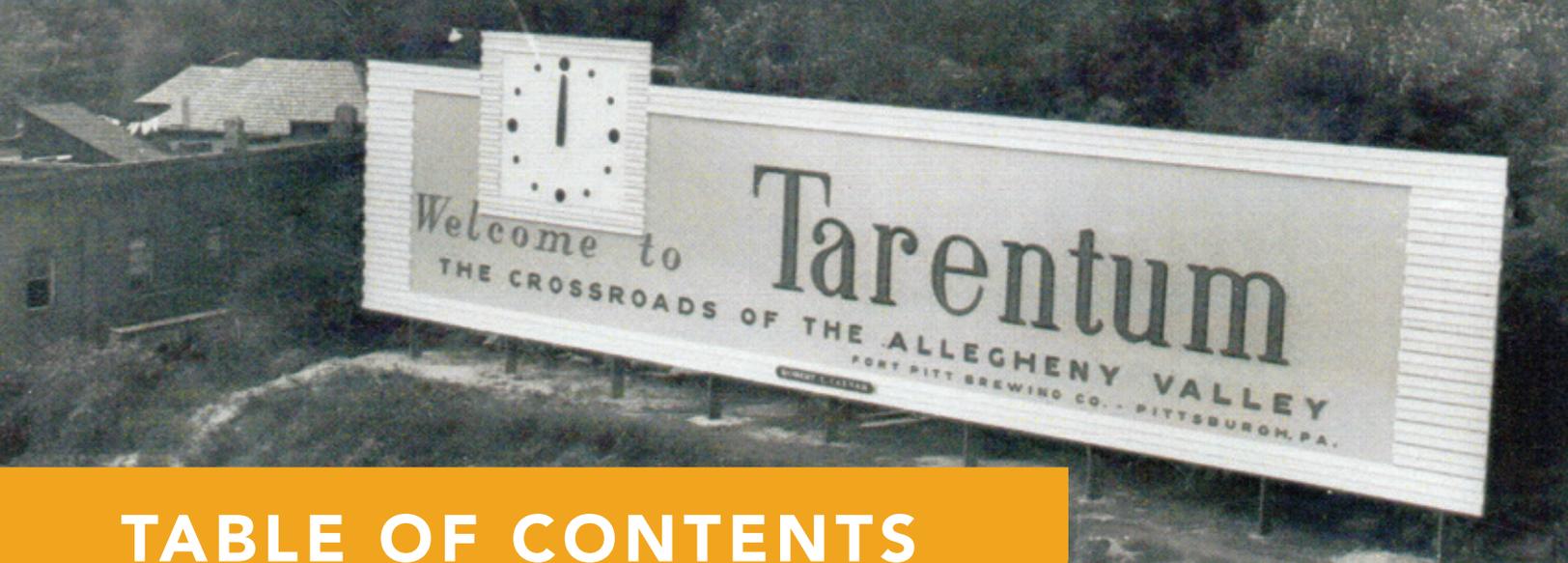


TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Did You Know?
The Story of Job's (Jobe's) Hole 3**

Senator Lindsay Williams 7

**The Sultan of Soda and the Story of
His Sweet Success 8**

Rep. Mandy Steele 13

Our Missing Link 14

October is a Time for Fire Safety 16

**Jingle All the Way
Christmas in Tarentum 21**

**From the Desk of Tarentum
Boro Manager Dwight Boddorf 22**

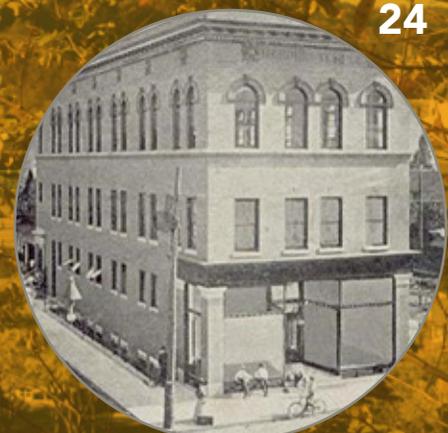
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tarentum Recreation Board Events

OCT 28, 2023 – Boofestival Tarentum Riverview Park 1-4 PM

NOV 9, 2023 – Senior Bingo Highlands Senior Center Daltons Edge **Must RSVP**

NOV 18, 2023 – Tarentum Brackenridge Christmas Parade 1 PM

DEC 16, 2023 – Holiday Lighting Contest deadline for entry is Dec 11

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For more info visit facebook.com/TarentumRecreationBoard/
or contact Carrie Fox at 724-448-1470



Other Tarentum Events

TARENTUM FARMERS MARKET - June 8 Thru Oct 26 - Wednesdays 9 AM-1 PM - Corner Of Lock And 10th.

TARENTUM NIGHT MARKET - 2nd Thursday Of Each Month - April Thru Nov - 5 PM - 8 PM

"Your efforts are appreciated. The Tarentum Magazine is fabulous!" –Fred Corsi

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Thank you for reading TARENTUM MAGAZINE!
We invite the whole community to contribute.
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Did You Know?

the Story of Job's (Jobs) Hole

Laura, a direct descendant of Job, told the true story. Hance Job McMurdy was out one day with his horse and buggy near Little Bull Creek, where Little Bull Creek meets Bull Creek. A terrific storm swept through the valley and created a whirlpool in the creek waters. Hance Job McMurdy and his Horse drowned in Bull Creek during this flash flood. He was buried in Bull Creek Cemetery alongside his horse. Bull Creek records states: Hance Job McMurdy, died July 4, 1850 at the age of 39. Job was born in Ireland April 22, 1811. His survivors were, wife Mary, daughter Jennie age 3 and Andrew age 2.

Information courtesy of Cindy Homburg



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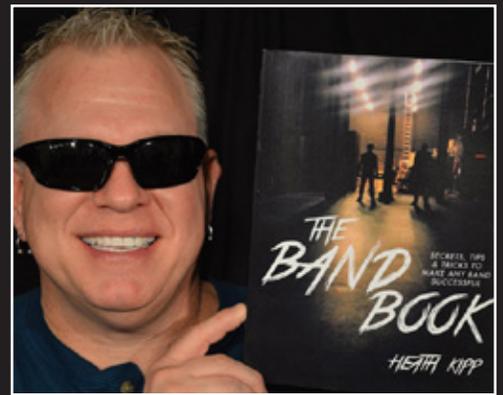
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SENATOR LINDSAY WILLIAMS

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Once you fill out the form, a police officer will need to verify that your plate is illegible. Most police departments are happy to help

complete this step quickly. After that is completed, the form gets mailed to Harrisburg and a new plate is sent directly to your home.

My office is happy to help process forms through PennDOT! Please give us a call at 724-224-2131 or email us at SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com if you have questions or would like help with the process!

To get more info or to register for upcoming events please visit SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/Events. We hope to see you soon!

- **SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR:**
October 26, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at
Ross Community Center, 1000 Ross Municipal Drive



THE SULTAN OF SODA

+ THE STORY OF HIS SWEET SUCCESS



The long history of the Natrona Bottling Company, creators of the well-loved Red Ribbon Soda brand, is something of a roller coaster ride. Established on Walnut Street by Ed Welsh in 1904, the company quickly became the real deal in the world of craft sodas.

In 1939, Welsh sold the business to two brothers, Paul and Ducky Bowser. As the new owners, they created the slogan “*Quality not Quantity*” and ran the business on that premise as they moved Natrona Bottling to its current location at 91 River Avenue in Natrona.

Some time later, after Ducky had passed on, Paul brought Sidney Harris aboard to help him run Natrona Bottling Company. Harris was as passionate about producing quality products as Paul was,

and Red Ribbon continued to grow as a household name, introducing such popular flavors as Plantation Style Mint Julep, Jamaica’s Finest Ginger Beer and Bowser’s Champayyo—a unique non-alcoholic champagne.

Paul added another key staff member when he invited Mary Jane Zdilla to join the Natrona Bottling family. Mary Jane says, a note was delivered to her door from Paul asking if she would come and be his “seeing eye employee” at Natrona Bottling.

When Paul passed on in 2008, the business had fallen on hard times. Supplies to create the popular flavors were hard to come by. Together, Mary Jane along with veteran bottler Steve Vokis, kept the business alive by saving every penny they could, thus ensuring a run of Red Ribbon Cherry and other popular flavors. Had it not been for their commitment to the age-old company, there would be no Natrona Bottling Company today.



Vito Gerasole invites anyone that wants to enjoy a top notch quality soda pop to try Red Ribbon.

Then in 2010, Vito Girasole entered the picture. Girasole came of age working in his family’s popular Italian restaurant in Shadyside, appropriately called, Girasole’s. Soon Vito became known as the “Sultan of Soda” and, with his background in the food and beverage industry, quickly propelled Natrona Bottling Company into a new age.

“I WANT TO BE KNOWN AS A TRUE CRAFT SODA BOTTLER!”

Girasole’s expectations were that the soda business would be a side hustle. Working nights at his family’s restaurant, he had time during the day. However, as he became more immersed in the soda business, and learning from Mary Jane that Natrona Bottling was among the last of a dying industry, he declared that he wanted to be a true craft soda bottler. From that point on he saw a bright future for the company.

Vito says that with their seventy-year-old machinery, the use of 100% pure cane sugar and their signature “pinpoint carbonation” method, using dry ice to create tiny bubbles in every bottle, Natrona Bottling can produce a perfectly authentic American soda pop. This means Natrona Bottling and its Red Ribbon products joins a mere handful of soda makers in the entire country that mix and produce their soda in small batches.

When Vito purchased Natrona Bottling, the company had only seven or eight products. Today, they offer seventeen products with three



SOMETIMES, YOU JUST HAVE TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOTTLE.

Mary Jane tells the story of not being able to order green bottles for the Plantation Mint Julep, so they came up with the idea of adding green coloring to the popular soda.

Later there was a request for a clear mint ginger ale and it was created by eliminating color. Same recipe just—a color variation.

lines—Red Ribbon Soda, Red Ribbon Mixers, and Jamaica’s Finest Ginger Beer.

“We have the very best Ginger Beer,” says Vito. He’s proud to say that Jamaica’s Finest Ginger Beer single-handedly helped the company re-gain prominence, as Ginger Beer has just become popular again as a mixer in drinks like the Moscow Mule.

Currently, Girasole says, Natrona Bottling products are shipped to roughly seventeen states or more, but he stops short of calling Red Ribbon a national brand. He clearly prefers to keep his craft soda status. But don’t think Vito hasn’t set his sights on bigger things. He recently landed his first overseas sale when a buyer in Japan ordered Red Ribbon’s Ginger Beer, saying there is nothing like it in his country.

So the little bottling company along the river in Natrona, now well into its second century, continues to move ahead with the dynamic Vito Girasole at the helm. Aided by the efforts of Mary Jane, Steve, Antonio, Jonas and now David Knapp (who has worked his way up to “Master Bottler”) running the lines, Natrona Bottling seems likely to be with the community for another generation. So the stories continue, as the clink and clank of bottles, moving down the line, fill with the soda pop we have grown to love.

DRINK RED RIBBON!

Red Ribbon Soda Pop can be purchased at Harvest Moon Coffee and Chocolates, Asay’s News Stand and Allegheny Beverage



CHOCOLATE POP? WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

The Bowser family used special equipment to steam milk to make their famous chocolate pop and it grew in popularity like no other. Sold to 25 retailers in the area, both children and adults loved it and continue to ask about chocolate pop to this day. But Natrona Bottling discontinued it when the recipe and equipment were sold to a business in Haiti.





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Tarentum Recreation Board's

BOO FESTIVAL



Saturday – October 28, 2023 – 1-4PM
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REP. MANDY STEELE

Since taking office in January 2023, Rep. Mandy Steele continues to serve on the Consumer Protection, Technologies, and Utilities Committee, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Game and Fisheries Committee in the House of Representatives. Rep. Steele's resolution, H.R. 131, which provides for an audit of Pennsylvania's impact fee in the oil and natural gas industry, recently passed the House of Representatives. She also worked to increase funding for the Department of Environmental Protection by 10.9%, Deer Lakes School District by 6.3%, Fox Chapel Area School District, and Highlands School District by over 8% and Allegheny Valley School District by 9.5%. Rep. Steele continues to work to address environmental issues, educate on organ donation, and more in the House of Representatives. If you have a state related need, please reach out to her office at 724-826-5151 for an appointment.

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- Property Tax/Rent Rebate
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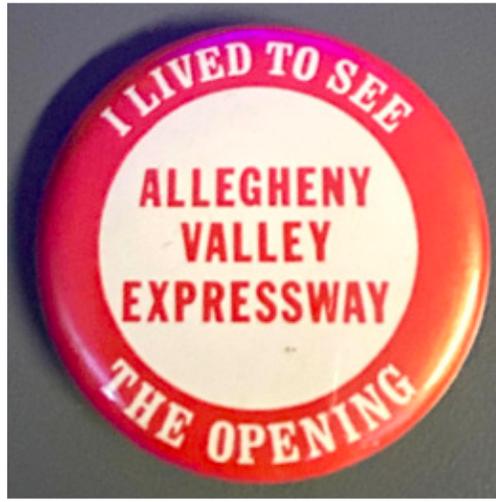
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OUR MISSING LINK

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The first plans for the Bull Creek Interchange of the Allegheny Valley Expressway look a little like an off-the-rails engineer's design for a strange combination waterslide/roller coaster. All this at a price tag of 34-million dollars—in 1976! But it would finally and forever put an end to the infamous Missing Link—or would it?

The idea for the Route 28 Expressway was born in 1948 but the dream would not be fulfilled until 1985. Just writing about it, even after all these years, is complicated and, at times, unbelievable.

The original Route 28 began on East Ohio Street in Pittsburgh and followed the Allegheny River through numerous river towns, forcing motorists to deal with 32 traffic lights before reaching Freeport. But between 1950 and 1963, major work was done so that motorists could bypass the river towns like Etna and Millvale and make it to Freeport in almost half the time.

Not long after, work began to the north and by 1972, sections of the highway were completed between Freeport, West Kittanning, and Slate Lick. Now PennDOT could turn its bulldozers toward East Deer, West Tarentum and Harrison and build a straight shot from Pittsburgh's North Side to

Kittanning and back again. But when residents of Creighton, West Tarentum and Harrison learned that nearly 500 houses were slated to be demolished—they became a mighty force against the plan. It took some time but PennDOT finally gave in. The new design, however, took two years and although the number was less, there were still a good many homes that would have to go.

Unfortunately, one of those houses still on the chopping block was the historic Burtner House. Built in 1821, the Burtner House, at almost the last minute, was saved from the wrecking ball when the Governor agreed to order an alternative design for Exit 15. But now money became the problem. First it would be secured, then it would disappear, be diverted and reappear several times during the 1970s. At one point, construction of the complicated Tarentum interchange was delayed two additional years because the federal Environmental Protection Agency insisted the Interchange had to be redesigned in order to save from extinction a small species of fish found in Bull Creek.

At last, funds were secured and on August 9, 1985, the final section between exits 13 and 15, of the long-awaited Route 28 Expressway, was opened. And so the story of the Missing Link—a mere 3.2 miles long—went into the history books.

“The Allegheny Valley is now part of the rest of the world,” declared the late U.S. Senator, John Heinz at the opening ceremony.

Though the Route 28 Expressway didn't bring immediate results, there has been steady growth up and down the valley.

One Man's 37 Year Long Dream

The Route 28 Expressway is officially called the Alexander H. Lindsay Memorial Highway. It was Alexander Lindsay, Senior who, in 1948, first presented his idea for a highway

Lindsay, who lived in South Buffalo and worked in downtown Pittsburgh, endured a daily two-hour commute to and from his law office. And in spite of what has at times been written, Lindsay's true motivation for a throughway being built from Pittsburgh to Kittanning, had everything to do with his desire to see economic growth, not merely to cut his commute time. He had served many years as Chairman of the Board of Peoples Bank of Tarentum where he facilitated a lot of economic development. Or perhaps he developed an interest in such matters when his father, Samuel L. Lindsay opened a Dry Goods store in West Tarentum, early in the Twentieth Century.

As years went by, Lindsay spoke to every politician at every level to further his idea. And support for the expressway continued to grow.

When he met with Pittsburgh Mayor David L. Lawrence, however, the mayor showed little interest in an expressway for the Allegheny Valley. He told Lindsay that he thought such a plan would draw both developers and residents away from the city.

That was when Lindsay explained that a four-lane expressway called the Keystone Shortway, which would eventually become I-80, would be built across the northern tier of Pennsylvania. He said such a highway would connect major cities in the upper Midwest along a throughway that would take traffic straight on to New York City, completely bypassing Pittsburgh. According to Lindsay, Lawrence's response was immediate. “Sign me up,” he said.”

Lindsay's efforts paid off and he joined other dignitaries that August day in 1985 for the ribbon cutting ceremony that officially opened the Route 28 Expressway.



Photos Courtesy of Chuck Blackburn

Lives Touched By The Building Of The Exit 14 Interchange

“The highway took our house and it was weird because they didn't have to take it. In the end the houses on either side of our house were left standing. It was tough because my parents didn't have a lot of money. They were given about a year to vacate the property and finally they bought a lot in Fawn Township and put a double-wide trailer on it and that's where they lived.”

“I loved growing up in the Bull Creek Neighborhood.. No one had much but there were lots of kids and we had fun. It was like country living just half a mile from town so you could walk to all the stores and to the YMCA. I really loved it because Tarentum had everything.” –Steve Jones

“Before plans changed, homes were purchased on 10th Avenue and Western Street and scheduled for demolition. Later, those houses were auctioned off.”

“I can't imagine what the town would have looked like had the first plan gone through.” –Jim Goralko

“Growing up on Cedar Street in West Tarentum, I recall the homes that were acquired by the state to make room for The Missing Link. As they stood empty, waiting for the wrecking ball, we kids took our own tours of many of them.”

“Once the roadwork began, you could see all of the large equipment brought in to move tons of dirt from our back yard. A stone quarry existed on the hillside. When the crew blasted it to make room for the highway, the whole house shook. It sure woke you up out of a sound sleep.” –Carrie Fox

October Is A Time For Fire Safety And Remembering Our Emergency Responders



Each year, in October, during Fire Prevention Week—the second full week of the month—volunteers from Tarentum’s Emergency Services—Highland Hose #280, Eureka Fire and Rescue EMS #281 and Summit Hose #282—conduct in-school presentations to bring lifesaving awareness to children about fire prevention and what to do in case of fire.

“The children embrace this program,” says Josh Fox, Chief of Summit Hose Company. “We take a hands-on approach. With the teacher’s permission and supervision, the kids are allowed to touch and see various tools, equipment, and turnout gear. They love the Thermal Imaging Camera. This is always a hit and a cool way to show smoke and flames.”

The volunteer fire fighters also teach students the important phrases that will help them remember

what to do in case of fire like, Don't Hide, Go Outside when smoke detectors sound the alarm or people in the house smell smoke. If an individual does catch fire, the children are taught Stop Drop and Roll—another way to remember life-saving advice.

Fire fighters also make certain that the children are never casual about fire safety rules by explaining that a fire can happen in any home.

"Be smart," urges Deputy Chief Brad James of Eureka Fire-Rescue EMS. "Don't be complacent. Everyone should think and plan in the event of a fire. Your life may depend on it!"

Volunteer Fire services save lives and protect property in times of danger and disaster. The National Fire Protection Association estimates that the time donated by volunteers saves communities \$47 billion each year. Without them, taxes would increase significantly.

In addition to fire calls, fire departments answer medical emergencies, car crashes, hazmat incidents, electrical, downed trees and more.



DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO OUTFIT ONE FIREFIGHTER?



As shown \$9410

- Helmet- \$350
- Goggles- \$75 (not shown but required)
- Breathing Apparatus with one spare bottle- \$6,500
- Small Flashlight \$65 (pictured)
- Fire gloves- \$75
- Extraction Gloves- \$50
- Boots- \$450
- Nomex Hood- \$45
- Jacket/ Pants Combo: \$1,800
- Other items not included in cost:
 - Axe- \$100
 - Flashlights- \$200
 - Safety Harness- \$200
 - Handheld Radio- \$5,400
 - Training- Varied

If you expect firefighters to respond to an emergency, they need to have adequate equipment. If they can't respond to an emergency without worrying about their own safety, how can you ask them to worry about yours? Before calling for cuts to the budget, consider the facts.

We're blessed in our community to have such dedicated fire emergency volunteers.

Sadly, it's tough for fire companies these days with fewer volunteers, and declining donations.

Please remember to support your local emergency services any way you can.

Fire Prevention Facts We Should All Know

LEADING CAUSES OF FIRES

Cooking, Heating equipment, Electrical, Smoking, Candles, and Lithium batteries.

ALL CATEGORIES CAUSING 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGE EACH YEAR.

SOME SIMPLE TIPS

- Install smoke detectors on every floor, every bedroom. Check detectors monthly.
- Be cautious of extension cords and outlets.
- *DO NOT use frayed or worn wires or overload outlets.*
- Have fire extinguishers available and learn how to use them. P.A.S.S. method is best (pull, aim, squeeze & sweep!)
- Keep 3' away from fireplace, heaters, wood stoves, and radiators. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE
- Secure lighters and matches from children.
- Know to "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"
- Practice home drills at least twice a year
- Maintain proper housekeeping of chemicals, fuels, and flammable debris both inside and outside of the home.

FIRE SAFETY FOR YOUR HOME





FIRES KILL AN AVERAGE OF 7 PEOPLE EVERY DAY IN THE US



65%

NFPA FIGURES ALSO REVEAL THAT OVER **65% OF FATAL FIRES OCCUR IN THOSE 10% OF THE HOMES THAT ARE NOT PROTECTED WITH SMOKE DETECTORS.**

CAUSE OF FIRES LEADING TO DEATH AND INJURIES



	COOKING EQUIPMENT	HEATING EQUIPMENT	INTENTIONAL	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT	SMOKING MATERIALS	CANDLES	PLAYING WITH HEAT SOURCE
PROPS	42%	18%	8%	6%	3%	3%	2%
DEATHS	36%	18%	12%	12%	22%	4%	7%
ALARMS	38%	12%	7%	7%	10%	7%	6%

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN:

-  KEEP MATCHES AND LIGHTERS OUT OF THE HANDS OF CHILDREN
-  TURN OFF THE STOVE WHEN NOT IN USE
-  TALK TO KIDS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY AND MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND THE HAZARDS
-  PUT OUT CIGARETTES BEFORE SLEEPING / DO NOT SMOKE IN YOUR BED
-  TURN OFF THE HEATER BEFORE SLEEPING
-  CREATE AN EVACUATION PLAN OR PRACTICE FIRE DRILLS
-  OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN A FIRE EXTINGUISHER
-  INSTALL AND MAINTAIN A SMOKE ALARM

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS ALWAYS HELD THE SECOND FULL WEEK OF OCTOBER

We urge everyone to practice FIRE SAFETY all year long!

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

No. 699

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TARENTUM, PA 15084
724-224-9961



"People Helping People"



1904

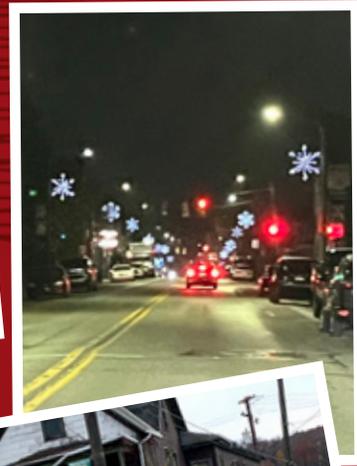
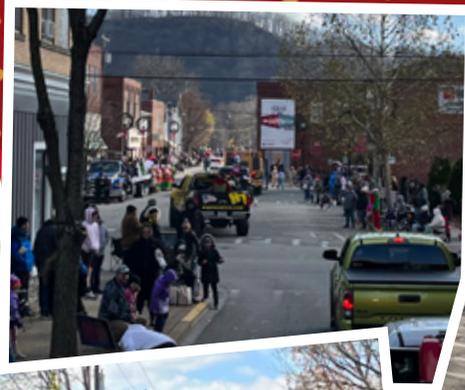


2023

www.facebook.com/tarentumeagles

SAVE THE DATE

Tarentum-Brackenridge Christmas is
November 18th Starts at 1PM



Contact Carrie Fox 724-448-1470 or
Barbara Magnetta 724-826-1545.



Jingle All The Way

Christmas in Tarentum (1916)

By: Richard Curry Esler

In mid-December when all the world was white, my father would announce at breakfast it was time to fetch our Christmas tree.

While Dad went downstreet to McKrell's livery to borrow Jum Galbreath's horse, Buck,

I was frantically changing my clothes for our expedition to the frozen North.

And there I stood by our front door sweating out Dad's arrival with the sleigh.

We headed out Bull Creek road, sleigh bells jingling. Buck's breath pluming back as he trotted over the wooden bridge at Job's Hole and past Mozena farm.

Dad knew where the best Christmas trees were, the shrinking stands of balsam firs that still grew along the frozen runs.

It didn't take long to find a fir. We cut it, trimmed the butt, and slid it downhill to the pasture road where Buck waited. Then we glided home in our one-horse sleigh, jingling all the way to Park Street.

On the 24th we brought it into the house, and our cozy fireside world was transformed by its heady outdoor balsam perfume.

We let the trimming go till evening, and that afternoon we made the rounds carrying presents to our kith and kin—Grandfather and Grandmother Esler on Dickey Street, Great Grandfather...at Lock and 9th, Grandpa and Grandma Curry on Wood Street.

Then, loaded with gifts, we walked home to Park Street. There we hung the homemade popcorn balls...our special hand-blown glass ornaments...ribbon candy, gingerbread cookies...and finally...a tinsel star on top.

Tomorrow would come early, and once more it would be the first morning of the world, the birthday of the Christ Child.

From ONCE UPON A TIME IN TARENTUM

Richard Curry Esler was born and raised in Tarentum. He taught for several years at Tarentum High School before accepting a sales position with the Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation that sent him travelling the world but he always called Tarentum his heart's home.

From the desk of **TARENTUM BORO MANAGER** *Dwight Boddorf*



I have been with Tarentum Borough for over a year and have several years' experience in government agencies. Local government plays a pivotal role in economic health and the vitality of the region it serves. Here is a closer look at significant roles that local governments can play in revitalizing an economy and programs or strategies.

Infrastructure Development and Maintenance is one of the foundational elements of economic vitality and robust infrastructure. Local Governments are typically responsible for maintaining and expanding transportation networks, utilities, and public facilities. This creates jobs and ensures that businesses can operate efficiently, and residents can access services. Tarentum is currently paving several roads and is working on a five-year capital plan for further road work.

The Borough is working to secure grants for major upgrades to the Tarentum Borough Water treatment plant and distribution system. If successful, these upgrades will be the first significant upgrades since the 1990s. Tarentum has secured multiple grants for water and sewer line replacements and valves in the past several years. The Borough is also upgrading the electrical system, including the first comprehensive policy and ordinance update since 1994.

Business Support and Incentives give local governments a way of offering tax incentives, grants, or low interest loans to attract new businesses, and to give existing businesses ways to

improve. Furthermore, streamlined permitting processes can make it easier for businesses to operate, expand or relocate within the locality.

Tarentum Borough recently started a façade program that will provide grants up to \$5000.00 available to commercial property owners or business owners. An attractive image is of critical importance to the success of the commercial areas. Façade and storefront improvements have been proven to be one of the most effective to enhance the commercial area's image and economic vitality.

Tarentum Borough co-hosts a monthly business luncheon. This provides networking opportunities to discuss new programs and services or issues.

Training and workforce development invests in human capital. Local governments partner with educational institutions to ensure work force skills bridging the gap between education and employment. Tarentum Borough runs a summer help program aimed at offering work experience. Recently the Borough started a Junior Council Person Program to help local students to learn about local government and look to a future career in the government.

Promotion of tourism and local attractions are a significant source of revenue. Local Governments can attract visitors who will spend money on accommodations, dining, attractions, festivals, and events.

Tarentum Borough, through its Recreation Board, has several events throughout the year, bringing visitors to the borough. The Tarentum

Night Market Committee partners with the Borough to promote and authorize the monthly market. Tarentum Farmers Market is another draw. The number of visitors and vendors are very vital to our community.

The Borough is working on preliminary plans to redevelop its river front. The Erie to Pittsburgh Heritage Trail will provide opportunities for daily exercise and recreation. Tarentum will be an important stopping point along the Allegheny River to potentially boost the local economy.

Land Use and Zoning policies can promote sustainable growth, encouraging a mixed residential, commercial, and recreational space that is inviting to residents and businesses. Tarentum Borough has demolished 60 abandoned and deteriorated structures since 2019. Tarentum has one of the most aggressive plans combating blight in Allegheny County. The Allegheny County Vacant Property Program allows taxpayers to acquire vacant land and return the land to the tax rolls, all while increasing property values. This is very successful in Tarentum Borough. The Zoning ordinances and maps are currently being updated to maintain history while providing for growth.

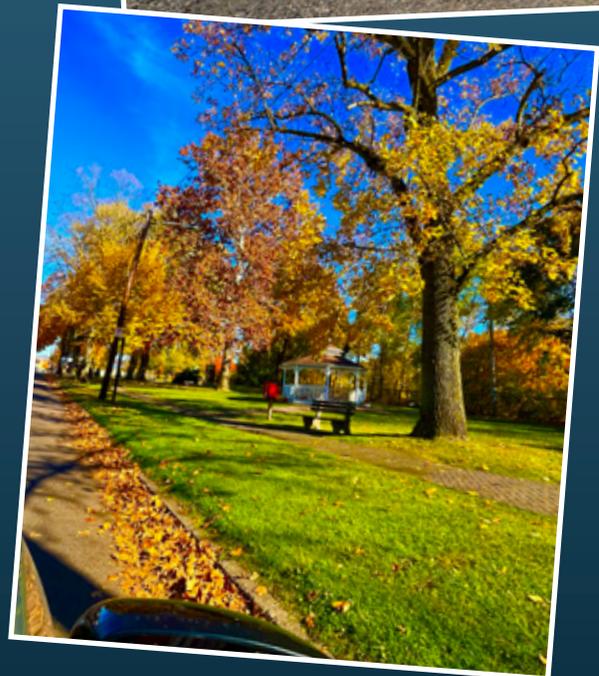
Stakeholder Collaboration allows local governments to tap into a broader pool of ideas and re-

sources: various stakeholders, business leaders, nonprofits, and community groups.

Tarentum is a key stakeholder in the Upper Allegheny Valley Community, which is committed to improving the quality of life in the region and assisting in revitalizing the Alle-Kiski Valley.

Tarentum borough is a member of Allegheny Valley North Council of Governments, which brings several local governments together to solve regional problems and cut cost by joint agreements and contracts.

Local Governments are central players in the economic fabric of the community. Their multi-faceted roles encompass the provision of services and the broader mission of ensuring economic prosperity and resilience by leveraging their unique position and resources. Local governments can usher in periods of growth, innovation, and prosperity, benefiting both residents and businesses.



Pollock Lodge No. 502

Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania (Tarentum Masons)

"Making Good Men Better"

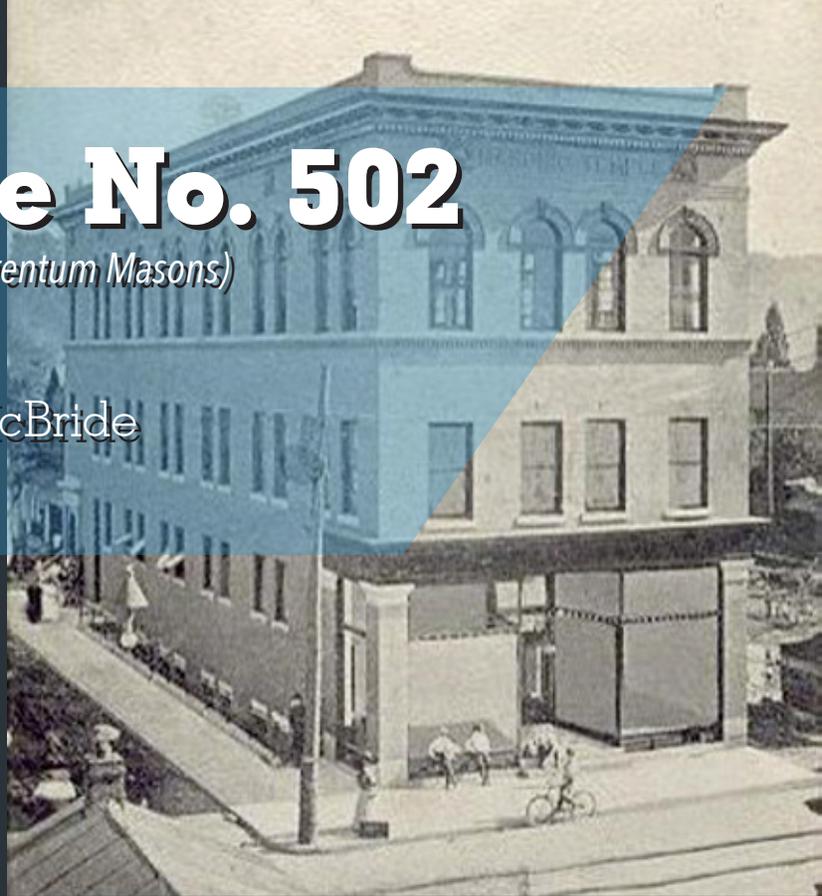
by Alan D. Fennell / Robert K. McBride

Extracts from 150th Anniversary Book

In March 1872, Pollock Lodge came into existence in Dunlap's Hall on Seventh Avenue, next to the current location of the Gatto Cycle Shop, across from the Marathon gas station. The Lodge was named after Dr. Alexander M. Pollock, who acted on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in its inception. In 1887, the meeting place was changed to the Oppenheimer Building on Fourth Avenue. In 1907, the Masonic Temple on Lock Street was built under the direction of Contractors Myers and Sefton.

The Lodge provides a social and fraternal outlet to the members of the community, who seek to better themselves. At its peak, the Lodge had approximately 700 members. Currently, there are 248 members. Throughout its rich history, Pollock Lodge has been led by 141 different Masters (presidents) of the local organization. During the past century and a half, the Lodge estimates that approximately 4,500 local men have been positively affected. All have had a mind for brotherhood and self-improvement. Members have invested their hearts, minds, souls and financial support into this organization, and into Freemasonry in the Allegheny Valley.

Lodge members believe in philanthropy, and have supported many community activities, such as Tar-Brack Little League, Eureka Fire Department, Natrona Heights and Tarentum holiday parades, Car Shows, Higher Education Scholarships, DeMolay boys, Rainbow girls, local food banks, sidewalk food box, the promotion of literacy through the Tarentum/Harrison Township's "Little



Book House Project" via a sidewalk library, and fundraising dinners and pancake breakfasts.

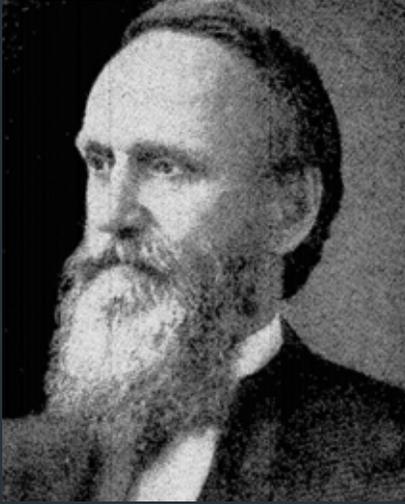
In addition, Masonry and patriotism go hand in hand. The Lodge members have always displayed sincere patriotism, and are very proud of active military members and veterans. An annual tradition is to recognize these men during our November meeting. The pledge of allegiance and a patriotic song are an integral part of every monthly meeting. Currently, there are 52 Lodge members who have served in our nation's armed services – 25 Army, 19 Navy, 4 Air Force and 4 Marines.

Several Masonic organizations, such as DeMolay boys, Rainbow girls and Eastern Star have made their home at the Pollock Lodge Masonic Temple as an outreach to the youth and women in the area.

Pollock Lodge is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, located in Philadelphia, PA. As such, the Lodge supports the George Washington Masonic Memorial, Masonic Villages in Sewickley, Lafayette Hill, Dallas, Warmminster, and Elizabethtown, and the Masonic Childrens Home

In June 2017, the local Masonic Temple was recognized in the Historic Register by the Tarentum Historic and Landmarks Foundation. The building, located at 307 Lock Street in





Dr. Alexander M. Pollock

Tarentum, has been an iconic landmark and staple of Tarentum's history for 150 years. Freemasonry celebrated its anniversary in 2022 and has weathered the test of time for a century and a half.

The first floor (street level) and the basement have been rented to several tenants through the years and provided the Lodge with essential income. First floor tenants have been a Vaudeville Theater, a furniture store, Logan Paints store, an on-line bookstore and secondhand store, and currently, Greatness Athletics Fitness center. The basement was utilized as a target shooting range by the Tarentum District Sportsmen's Club for many years but is presently unoccupied.

The second and third floors, mainly used for Masonic meetings and activities, are accessible at the entrance on the Lock Street side of the building. Many additions and improvements were made since the doors opened in 1907. In the early 1960s, an elevator was purchased and installed; although it is aging, it continues to serve the Lodge to this day. In

the 1970s, the current metal and concrete fire escape was added in the case of an emergency. Also, the interiors of the Lodge, dining hall and meeting hall, were remodeled. Ceilings were lowered and insulation was added. Windows on the third floor were removed and bricked up to conserve heat. Theater seats were purchased from the Manos Theater on Fifth Avenue. The seats were painted, reupholstered, and installed in the third floor Lodge meeting hall. The new seats replaced long wooden benches. However, six of the old benches are still in service on the second and third floor. Further major improvements were made in the 1980s when a sound system and inhouse air conditioning were added in the dining hall.

Lodge memorabilia, along with photographs of Lodge members and events, are displayed throughout the Lodge, on walls, in display cases and in the main stairwell. Also, a "Friend to Friend" mural, acquired from Gray Sign Advertising in Tarentum, was placed on the second floor landing.

Looking to the future, the Lodge invites others to join. The Lodge welcomes men of every race, religion, income level, education level and opinion. However, an applicant for membership must meet the following qualifications: male; at least 18 years of age; belief in the existence of a Supreme Being; good moral character; desire to join for reasons unrelated to personal gain or profit; have a favorable opinion of Freemasonry; be eager to gain knowledge; and, be willing to be part of the traditions of the fraternity.

For more information, please call 724-882-3881, email secy0502@pagrandlodge.org or visit Facebook "Pollock Lodge No. 502 Bulletin Board."



100

YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

INSURANCE AGENCY SINCE 1922

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