

UPTOWN STANDARD

FEBRUARY 2021

FREE

POLITICAL POWERHOUSE IN THE MAKING STATE REP. DARISHA PARKER TAKES HER SEAT IN A ROLE SHE WAS DESTINED FOR!



Photo Credit:
Darisha Parker

By Alana Lukens Lukens
and James Williams

We at the Standard would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to newly elected State Representative Darisha Parker. Rep. Parker will now proudly serve the 198th Legislative district. The 198th borders more districts than almost any district in the city. The constituents of the 198th should know that they voted well. Parker surely will hold a strong voice in the House.

Uptown Standard's James Williams had the privilege to interview Ms. Parker after the victory. Parker is taking her win in stride. A very humble stride. Thanking Williams for the accolades, she quickly turned the focus towards the betterment of the community.

"I will always be a community leader and connector for many individuals," commented Parker. "It's our job

and our duty to make sure we provide resources but not to glorify or glamourize anybody's situation." Parker is well known and well-liked in the community and is by no means a rookie in the political field. She may be new to the seat but no stranger to Harrisburg and PA Capitol politics.

The State Rep has spent the past couple of years serving under former State Representative Rosita Youngblood, who was a leader in the House as well as a member of the well-known Northwest Coalition. Parker has earned her stripes in the political arena. But things tend to look a tad different when you go from behind the scenes to center stage. "I actually was nervous. I did not want this to be a braggadocious campaign. I think my faith and the fact that I have remained focused and I have remained

positive. I just kept a lot of things tunnel vision as it relates to running. This is my first time being a candidate, but I am not a novice when it comes to the political process. With her new platform, she had a chance to work with many different legislators right here at home, such as State Senator Art Haywood, State Senator Vincent Hughes, and State Rep Stephen Kinsey.

She sees this as an opportunity to really make things happen for the better of the people, taking care of the issues at home is where she can make her biggest impact. "What is really going to set me apart, is that I am one of a few legislators that are coming into the legislative branch, that doesn't have to introduce themselves. Parker went on to say, "Because I was Staffer. I was home, serving in the district office. Then I became

INSIDE:

17 WITH LIFE: SPREADING POSITIVITY, THROUGH MENTORSHIP AND EXPERIENCE

ABINGTON NATIVE KYLE PITTS WINS PRESTIGIOUS JOHN MACKEY AWARD

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- 1 LB. TURKEY HAM

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DELI SPECIAL #2

- 1 LB. AMERICAN CHEESE
- 1 LB. TURKEY BREAST
- 1 LB. TURKEY HAM
- 1 LB. TURKEY SALAMI
- 1 LB. BEEF BOLOGNA

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DELI SPECIAL #3

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- 1 LB. TURKEY BREAST

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- 1 LB. TURKEY SALAMI
- 1 LB. AMERICAN CHEESE

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- 1 LB. TURKEY SALAMI
- 1 LB. AMERICAN CHEESE

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STATE REP. DARISHA PARKER TAKES HER SEAT IN A ROLE SHE WAS DESTINED FOR!



Photo Credit: Darisha Parker Facebook Page
Representatives Youngblood Chief of Staff.”

There is quite a bit of talk as to which committees Parker may choose. Her approach is to feel things out, take her time to ensure it is the right fit for all involved.

“I know where I have my head. I know where I have my focus. I’m looking at committees, to make sure that resources come back to the residents in the 198 District.”

Rep. Parker, she is her own woman. Confident in her abilities and secure in her knowledge, Parker most definitely will put in the effort to move mountains in the State Capitol as many of her constituents would like her to do.

With the Republicans gaining even more control of the chamber in the 2020 Election 90-113. She understands the difficulty that she is going to face in passing legislation due to the Republican majority and the tension that exists between the two parties. Especially after this recent election. Ever the diplomat, she knows what deals she can get done and what avenues to veer down to see results. ” There is a lot that is required out of me, but one of the things is that I have to work with the other party to make sure my bills are passed. And making sure that those resources are duly brought back to the 63,000 individuals that live in the 198 districts.” Parker stated. And there is a lot of changes

with the consideration of the redistricting process coming up. With considering broadening the areas in the district they are also faced with some aspects of gentrification as well.

“The district may change, or it may stay the same due to

redistricting, but I just want to focus on the residents.

Whether you reside in a home or an apartment, you are a resident and that’s how you’re going to be treated.

And you should receive the resources that are supposed to be available through the

city and the state and the federal government.

Just so there is no doubt, Darisha Parker was born to serve. Steadfast and focused on the growth and well-being of her community.

This is, unequivocally,

someone who is looking to make an impact. As President Obama once said she is someone, “who’s fired up and ready to go”.

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ABINGTON NATIVE KYLE PITTS WINS PRESTIGIOUS JOHN MACKEY AWARD



University of Florida junior Kyle Pitts was named the winner of the prestigious John Mackey Award on Thursday evening during the 30th annual Home Depot College Football Awards on ESPN.

The award is presented to the most outstanding collegiate tight end in voting conducted by the John

Mackey Award Selection Committee. Pitts is a 2018 graduate of Archbishop Wood High School.

Pitts' 12 receiving touchdowns this season are the second-highest total by a tight end in SEC history, and his 770 yards this year tie Kirk Kirkpatrick (1990) for second on Florida's single-season record list for

receiving yards by a tight end. The junior is the first tight end in Gators history and the eighth FBS tight end in the last five years (including 2020) with three games of 100-plus receiving yards in the same season.

On Dec. 31, Pitts was named to the American Football Coaches Association All-America team as a

first-team selection, his fourth first-team All-America honor this season.

Photo Courtesy of Univ. of Florida.

Editorial Courtesy of aopathletics.org

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17 WITH LIFE: GOOD BROTHERS DOING GOOD THINGS IN THE COMMUNITY



By Andre Brown
Black Philadelphia Magazine
Photo Courtesy of 17 With Life

A courtroom for most of the people in our community is usually not the best place to be, especially when you're the one on trial. For four men this was the bond that pulled them all together. Nasir Shawqi, Jason Campbell, Ian Cunningham, and Brain Randle at 17 were told that were to serve a life sentence in prison.

"When I received my life sentence I felt defeated and everything was over," reflects Randle, "You start thinking about things you've never done in your life." Ian Cunningham, Secretary of 17WithLife, remembers a similar feeling when he was giving his sentence of life in prison. "My heart was broken, I remember looking at my family and thought I will never see them again." Each man has his own thoughts and feelings about the day they were giving life in prison at the age of 17.

This is what started the organization "17 With Life." These are also the stories that will be told in detail in their upcoming documentary with the same name. GUI-NANCE a word Founder Nasir Shawqi has made to represent a new found idea but has existed since he was 13 years old.

"It's a combination of the words guidance and finance," explains Shawqi "this idea is that a youth needs guidance with the fi-

nance to support them and their needs." Shawqi found his guidance on the streets. His mother who struggled with drugs and his father who wasn't there had no way to guide their young son. "I went to the streets and they gave me drugs and a gun." That same day Shawqi received money and was able to buy the things he always wanted but he also found something else "Trouble."

Each man shares a similar story of being misguided and falling into trouble in their youth. All the men were sentenced to life in prison where they served 20 years. After being home for nearly 2 years each of these men have teamed up to show the youth that there is another way.

In the midst of a global pandemic 17WithLife was born in March of 2020.

With no support from local government or outside funding these men have started several businesses to help in the community, A Ice Cream Water Ice Truck, a Landscaping business, A Car detailing business, a Music Group, A News Van, a Clothing Line, and the First Black Owned Halal Truck in Philadelphia. Each of these men after serving 20 years in a prison, where they learned to survive came home to find a way to teach the youth of the community to fund their dreams. With no formal education just G.E.D's they have seen the problems and

are looking to create solutions. Jason Campbell the Treasurer of 17WithLife explained the process of getting youth into the program.

"Before the pandemic we went directly to the schools." 17WithLife has taken it upon themselves to meet the youth that need help. "We have started a boxing academy as well as a non-profit that has allowed us to connect to the children that we serve."

Brain Randle the Director of the organization says that he was surprised by the reception they received when visiting the local high schools. "They thought we were dancers," jokes Randle, "Once they heard our story and what we had to say the kids felt our message and paid attention to what we had to share." "We caused so much destruction (in our youth) but some of these kids have never seen the other side and what we had to go through, life is beautiful and it's our obligation to share that message", says Randle.

You would think after 20 years spent in a cell these men would come home and think about themselves, but Cunningham offered a different insight: "For me to come back home I realized I was blessed, having an opportunity to have the community support me even after 20 years i had no choice but to come home and try to help."

"We need to stop letting the streets teach our kids!," founder Shawqi exclaims "We need to educate the youth and tell them about the truth of the guns, when and why to use one and how to legally obtain one." These are the lessons that these men have gone to the street corners and neighborhoods that need help to spread and show another way to live.

"In our neighborhoods people look up to someone who went to prison before they look up to the person who graduated college," a truth that all four men echoed and agreed needs to change in our communities.

Each man has taken it upon themselves to tell their story not to impress the community but to use it as a teaching point to change lives. Each man served their time and is now putting the effort into becoming a solution to the problem that we have in our communities.

Shawqi says he has already seen a change. "I pulled a young kid right off the corners, and now he is working at one of our businesses making money and has a new "guidance" plan for his life." Each man has a lesson to teach and have allowed themselves an opportunity to sum it up with a few meaningful statements: Director Brain Randle says, "Life is a blessing, always look at life as a blessing." Founder Nasir Shawqi says, "I'm not that guy I'm sorry"

"Back to business." He explains this person helping others is not the old Nasir and for those who think he is, it's back to the business of changing the community. Treasurer Jason Campbell says, "Want for your brother what you want for yourself."

Secretary Ian Cunningham says, "Show your appreciation because appreciation goes a long way." Follow 17_with_life on Instagram and all other social media platforms. To hear more of their story as well as to see what they have to offer.

Nelson Mandela says, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." While these four men served 20 years in prison their education will now be the light that will guide the youth into a path where they can realize the dreams they have.

Which means that they will not spend time behind bars.

FROM UPTOWN TO URBAN X-PRESSIONS KEITH FROMUPDABLOCK IS A CREATIVE GENIUS!



By Shelly Shell
Photo Courtesy of Shelly Shell

What's up Uptown Standard Readers! I'm looking forward to kicking it with you monthly. Since it's my first Uptown Standard column I wanted to make sure it was special. My feature is Keith fromupdablock; known as the host of the popular video show Urban X-pressions and my brother for life. Keith and I spent over 20 years creating TV locally and Keith is Uptown born and raised. I thought we'd start with an

Uptown Quiz:
Shelly Shell: What was the best part of growing up in Uptown?

Keith: Looking back, it was the amount of hope & black excellence. There was a large amount of black owned businesses in walking distance. We had Black Deli's like Shermans on Upsal & right across the street a convenience store named Upsal Variety.

Shelly Shell: What were some of the best hang outs?
Keith: There is only 1 true hangout outside of playgrounds like Finley or Simons & that would be Cheltenham Mall!!!!

Shelly Shell: Did you have a old head that would keep you in check around the way?

Keith: Well my momma was feared & respected so nobody had to keep me in check. they just would let

me know that if I did anything wrong they would tell Bertha!!!!

Shelly Shell: From Uptown to Urban X-pressions; how did you get started with UX?

Keith: Working at Cheltenham Mall's movie theatre. A co-workers brother started interning and he let me go with him.

Shelly Shell: Let's talk about Evolution – I've said it before and I will say it again; you are a creative genius. You continue to create bigger and better each time.

Keith: Thank you Shelly. So far as evolution I have realized that my true purpose is growing and giving. it keeps me busy, on my toes and able to receive & give love to myself & others.

Shelly Shell: During the Covid quarantine you created an entire parody album titled "The Covid Theory" with accompanying video? Tell me about that process?

Keith: With every venue closed & being home I had to do something to fight anxiety, fear and depression. Comedy has always gotten me through so songs just naturally came. Studios were closed so I taught myself pro tools & used knowledge I had coupled with wisdom from the internet & produced vocals & drums. I then reached out to a genius musician named

KJ MCNEILL who created the music I couldn't play from the ground up. I also re-educated myself on Video Production, Chroma Screen & Graphics and lit, shot, directed, edited all of the videos. I received assistance from Sergio Santana & Cotton Candy Circus Arts for the Don't Give it to me video but the other 8 vids were shot right in my apartment. Make Up Artist #GoldenBrownie turned me into Prince & A Tribe Called Quest's Mascot for the Photo Shoot & 2 vids. Zamani Feelings took the pics & Stacey Flyy Girl Wilson hooked up the graphics.

Shelly Shell: You're been working on a few new projects that are on major platforms; are you able to share?

Keith: I have completed filming for Freedom Theatre's Founding Fathers Of Freedom produced by Karl Jenkins A.K.A Dice Raw. I can't speak much on it but I will say that IMO it' BLACKER THAN HAMILTON & I think it will change the world. I am also Frederick Douglas in CNN's "Lincoln:Divided We Stand" both projects should release globally mid to late February 2021. Happy Black History Month to me!!!

Follow me
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STATE POLICE BEGINS COMPREHENSIVE CONTACT DATA REPORTING FOR TRAFFIC STOPS DATA WILL BE ANALYZED BY AN INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY.



By Alana Marie Lukens
Assistant Editor/Staff Writer
Photo Courtesy of PA
State Police

Pa. State Police (PSP) have announced that starting January 1st, State troopers have initiated a wide-range contact data collection program.

The program designed to capture demographic and /other information related to traffic

stops. Content data is to include over 30 fields of information, including driver and passenger age, gender, race, and ethnicity. As well as the duration of the stop, whether a vehicle search was conducted, and the results of that search, if applicable.

Troopers are asked to document all prudent information, regardless of whether the encounter results in a

citation or written warning. "...this data collection effort is one way to show the public we are upholding that oath," said Colonel Evanchick. "Regular and ongoing analysis by a neutral third party is a critical part of this program that emphasizes our department's commitment to transparency and continuous improvement." The independent research team chosen by PAP is led by Dr. Robin Engel, a pro-

fessor of criminal justice and director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) / University of Cincinnati Center for Police Research and Policy. Along with her team of researchers at the University of Cincinnati, will analyze all collected data.

Dr. Engel's credentials are impressive. Not only is she a leading academic in the field of criminal justice and criminology, Dr. Engel's expertise in empirical assessments of police behavior, police use of force, and police-minority relations are bar none.. With the topic of transparency at both local and state levels, but The PA state police have been ahead of the curve.

From 2002-2011 the PSP used neutral third-party researchers to analyze data. This time around they hope the findings will show how advancements in technology

over the last decade has helped troopers and the departments relationships with the community and how to uphold said members of the community's constitutional rights while continuing to build a positive, lasting relationship with those they swore to protect and serve.

The program is set to be implemented until the end of the year. Dr. Engel and her teams final analysis is set to be presented in April 2022. The department has an outline of the program in Field Regulation 6-18.

For more information on the Pennsylvania State Police, visit psp.pa.gov.

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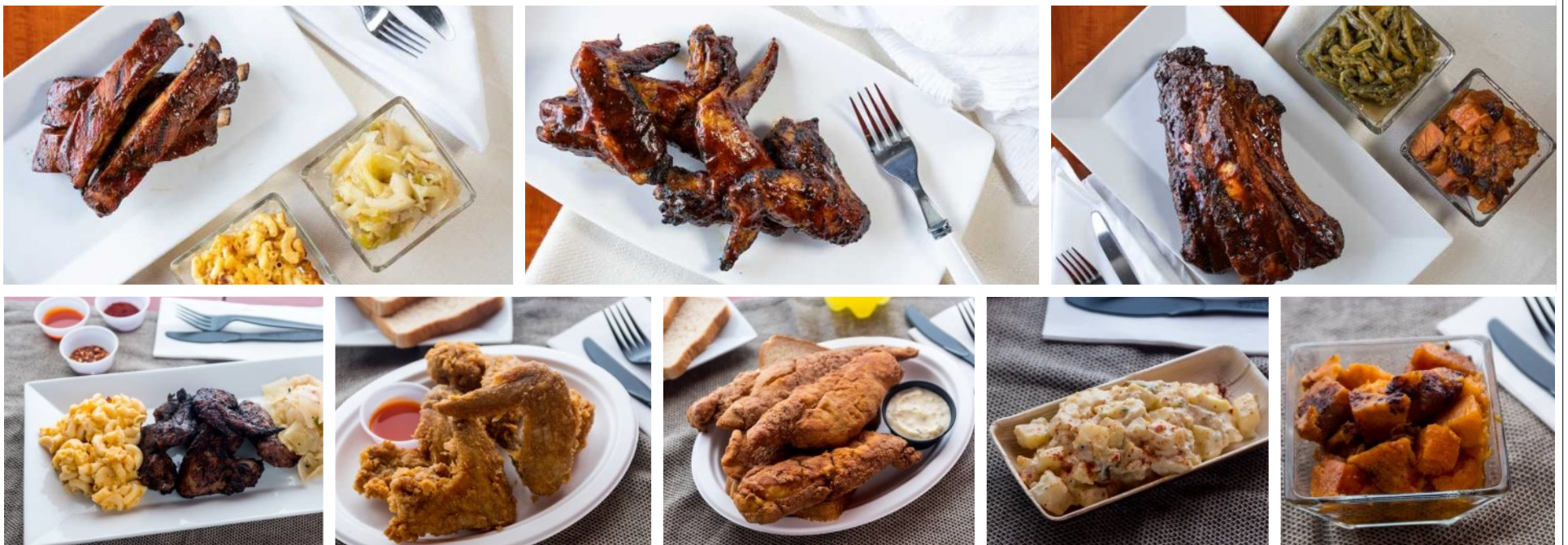
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CITY COUNCILMEMBER KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON SPEARHEADS CITY COUNCIL CALL FOR INVESTIGATION INTO CITY EMPLOYEES IN DC INSURRECTION



By Alana Marie Lukens
Assistant Editor/Staff Writer
Photo Courtesy of
PHLCouncil.Gov

In this bleak time of unrest throughout our country, we need to make it a priority to not only hold civil servants accountable for their actions but hold ourselves accountable as individuals. Regardless of personal standpoints, we as a whole, must come together as a

nation and abolish taboos or inequalities against any race, creed, color or religion. Yes, many times it is uncomfortable to address subjects of injustice such as racial stereotypes and cultural misappropriations especially by those who are in a position to police or enforce our laws.

We elect candidates to be the community's voice. To stand by us and for us. We, the people, as constituents deserve to have our voices heard and our grievances addressed no matter the significance.

11 of Philadelphia's city councilmen are adhering to just that. Councilmember Katherine Gilmore Richardson spearheaded a letter to Mayor Kenney urgently asking for an immediate investigation into the possible involvement of any Philadelphia employee, po-

lice officers or otherwise, in the violent and appalling attacks on the U.S. Capitol building January 6, 2021.

"Serving as an employee or sworn police officer of the City of Philadelphia comes with significant responsibility," said Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

"While no one should face repercussions for partaking in their First Amendment rights of protest or free speech, we must be certain no one on the City's payroll violently attacked the seat of our federal government on behalf of the outgoing President."

Furthermore, this is a time for us to show our strength in numbers. We need to come together as a united front to put an end to these malicious actions affecting the members of our communities.

We have elected officials that care to take a stand and help usher in some much needed change. City Councilmembers Kendra Brooks, Jamie Gauthier, Derek Green, Helen Gym, Kenyatta Johnson, Curtis Jones, Jr., Cherelle Parker, Maria Quiñones Sánchez, and Isaiah Thomas strongly backed Councilmember Gilmore Richardson's letter.

Standing on the sidelines commenting on the horrendous acts being committed will not stop them from happening. Regardless of your skin color this issue affects ALL OF US on a humanitarian level. Let your voice be one of many and let the sound of our collective voices roar "NO MORE."



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DEPARTMENT OF AGING ASSEMBLES PUBLIC-PRIVATE TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF OLDER ADULTS

By Alana Marie Lukens
Assistant Editor/Staff Writer

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) is taking action in response to Governor Wolf's 2019 Executive Order on protecting vulnerable populations. The agency is forming a task force with focus on deterring financial exploitation of older adults. One of five recommendations from its Financial Exploitation Study which was released back in September 2020. The interdisciplinary task force will be compiled stakeholders in state agencies, aging, legal, financial, law enforcement and healthcare. Experts of such subject matter are to discuss the issue as well as a multi-disciplinary approach to its prevention.

Prior to assembling the task force, PDA convened a state interagency workgroup to explore collaborations between agencies and to develop recommendations for the task force to consider.

PDA hopes the task force will support older adults with early detections tools and additional opportunities for prevention of financial exploitation.

"Financial exploitation

causes significant harm to older adults and we know it is significantly underreported. The department felt it was imperative to bring together stakeholders who work closely with older adults and discuss how financial exploitation occurs and ways to prevent and stop it," said Secretary of Aging Robert Torres, who is chairing the task force. During the task force's inaugural meeting, case studies were presented on how agencies have been handling incidents. Representatives from Temple University's Institute on Protective Services and the director of the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) both had shared their findings.

Torres went on to say, "I am pleased with the great feedback we received during the first meeting. Some members even made connections to work with one another outside of the task force. I look forward to seeing tangible results from these collaborations and the work of this task force to help protect vulnerable older adults."

Cases in the study were investigated by 10 local Area Agencies on Aging, covering 14 Pennsylvania counties. The study found that the most vulnerable victims

of this crime are widowed females living alone, who have an income above the federal poverty guidelines. The average loss totals almost \$40,000 each. Almost \$12.5 million just in the cases included in this study alone.

Who, you say, would do such a thing? Turns out, the majority are being swindled by their very own loved ones. The study revealed close to sixty-five percent were the adult children of the victims. Statistics show that only one in 10 to one in 44 cases are ever reported. "Elder financial exploitation and fraud are all too common occurrences, exacerbated by this pandemic," said Secretary of Banking and Securities Richard Vague, who is serving on the task force. "The work of the task force to coordinate and develop strategies around financial exploitation detection and prevention is more important than ever."

The goal is for the task force to provide critical resources and better solutions to this growing problem. Lackawanna County AAA director and task force member, Jason Kavulich, hopes his contribution - amongst many others - will find better ways to combat

further exploitation. Kavulich was quoted, "Eliminating stigma and providing older adults with multiple avenues to discuss their concerns can only serve them better."

PA Bankers Association is one of the many tapped to provide their input and hopes their expertise will help protect the elderly's assets. The Bankers Association says they are on the frontlines of protecting their customers and helping older adults understand and recognize the signs of such criminal undertakings. "PA Bankers Association appreciates the opportunity to provide input and guidance to the work of the Department of Aging's Financial Exploitation Task Force," said Daniel Reisteter, Pennsylvania Bankers Association and task force member. "We applaud the department for the formation of this task force and look forward to partnering with other stakeholders to develop further practices, policies and statutory changes to prevent this type of financial exploitation."

Other members of the task force are: Office of Policy and Planning, Governor Tom Wolf, PA Department of Human Services, PA De-

partment of Health, PA Department of Revenue, PA Department of State, PA Office of Attorney General, PA Department of Insurance, PA State Police, PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, PA Office of Victim Advocate, AARP, Alzheimer's Association of Greater Pennsylvania, PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Senior LAW Center, PA Bar Association/Elder Law Section, Cross State Credit Union Association, PA Association of Community Bankers, PA Society of Tax Professionals, Temple University Institute on Protective Services, PA Medical Society, PA Psychological Society, University of Pennsylvania, Penn Memory Center & P3MB, PA Institute of Certified Public Accountants, PA Chiefs of Police Association, Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging, Blair County Area Agency on Aging and PA District Attorneys Association.

The task force is scheduled to meet through April 2021

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NORTHWEST LOCAL: LOOKIN' GOOD, MAPLEWOOD!

ONE POSITIVE TO COME OUT OF 2020 IS THE NEW MAPLEWOOD MALL IN GTOWN, FEATURING AN ARTIST COLLECTIVE!



By Sam Newhouse (for the Northwest Local)
Photos Courtesy of Sam Newhouse

The renovations to the beloved pedestrian mall, first announced back in 2013, finally got underway in November 2019. The familiar old trees and bricks were suddenly gone. Businesses remained open while the road got worked on until COVID-19 hit in March. Construction shut down for a while, but picked up again and the project was completed this fall.

Now that it's done, the \$3.3 million city project has beautified the street, filled it with new trees (species that don't have wide-spreading roots systems, like the old willows did) and opened it up to cars, although it's been pedestrian-only every weekend since renovations completed. The city says in spring 2021 it will look into possibly extending no-cars-on-weekends closures.

One local businesswoman who's delighted with the renovations is Erica Johnson, owner of Collective Artistry. Erica spoke to the Local about her take on the new Mall and its future as a community hub for Germantown.

The Local: What exactly is Collective Artistry?

Erica: We're a group of artists working together. We create with our hands. The people within our group including myself are very tal-

ented and we want to share those talents with our community. Collective Artistry was started in 2019. With the assistance of my family, an awesome business expert, Keah Johns, and One Better Community LLC, I was able to bring something beautiful to Maplewood Mall.

I have been taught since a young age about all types of art. Some may call it a hobby. My mother had introduced me and my siblings to making things with our hands from mud pies to hand crafted jewelry, drawing/painting, sewing, plants (all types) and I wanted to share my art and talents. I also want to help my community and other communities. I also would like to help other artists who make handcrafted products. So that's how it started.

How long have you been in the location on the Mall?

I've lived here on the Mall since 2014. I had my massage business here since 2015. When COVID arrived, I had to shut down my business immediately and it was my only source of income.

Where are you from originally?

I grew up in Nicetown until I was 16 years old. Then my mother moved me and my siblings to Germantown on Rittenhouse St.

What do you think of the Mall's renovations?

I think the renovations are absolutely beautiful, JPC which I believe is the company that handled the renovations, did a wonderful job!

Although the old way was quiet and quaint and I deeply enjoyed the privacy, I was sad to see it go. When the willow tree was taken down it broke my heart.

How have things gone since the project finished?

Things have gone well but slow, which is to be expected due to COVID.

I feel that people are coming out to shop and show sup-

port. I do my best to keep my customers safe by asking them to use a mask (if they don't have one, I'll provide one for them), having them come in one or two at a time and asking them to stay socially distant from each other. I also have a hand sanitizer station at the front door for them as well.

What are your hopes for the Mall?

I hope it will:

1. Be recognized again as a family-oriented respected shopping area, as it once was in the 70's and 80's.
2. Continue to be a great staple in Germantown.
3. Have more small businesses open up here.

Do you think the mall will start to attract more crowds, customers and community now that it's been renovated?

I absolutely do think it will, once COVID has settled. Most people in Germantown have known about Maple-

wood Mall for a long time and now that it's been redone, enthusiasm will keep building. Not only is the space more beautiful, but with businesses like Germantown Espresso, Concept Beauty, Bistro on the Mall and Collective Artistry it's gotten more lively and fun.

Come meet Erica, check out the renovations and patronize the businesses on the beautiful new Maplewood Mall anytime. It's located between Greene Street and Germantown Ave and Cheltenham Ave. and Armat Street

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GAME STOP, AMC THEATERS, NOKIA AND DOGECOIN - "POWER TO THE PLAYERS"

By R.S.B

What just happened and why it matters. You thought when the "good ol' boys" stormed the Capitol in Washington, DC that January saw enough drama for a month. We were wrong. Going into February, we saw GAME STOP (GME) stock go up 7000% from its 52 week low, with no real good news that warrants the explosion of the company other than new board members who had a lot of shares believing that GameStop company would turn profit again). Well, the team at WallStreetBets chat room on the Reddit website came up with a plan. A real plan which actually outsmarted the big Wall Street firms. First, how it started. In 2008 we were in a recession. Wall Street got a bailout, Main Street did not. Retail Traders vs Wall Street. In 2020, the stock market dropped because of the covid19. Wall Street was bailed out and the Fed reserve bank printed money and saved the Corp bond funds to give to banks, institutions to keep them operating. Americans get like \$1,200 if they are lucky. Ever heard of Barbarians at The Gate, the fall of RJR Nabisco? Nabisco was bought out by a company who only used \$15 Million of their money to buy Nabisco for \$25 Billion. My point is, manipulation is a standard procedure on Wall Street. The point is that there is a big game of manipulation going on in the Wall Street game, and Main Street (the people) are angry that the establishment always gets bailed out by the taxpayer. Like RS Broker always said, Wall Street can be manipulated, but not rigged. That's because when a recession hits, companies can't fake the cash flow. Bail outs don't happen to average Americans, but it does for companies.

The Redditors, which are mainly Generation Z and

younger Millennials have been out to try to teach hedge funds and the establishment a lesson. So, what they did was short the security GME. What does that mean? A short means that they made a trade betting that the stock would go down. Example, usually when you buy a stock, we want to buy a stock when its low and sell when it's high. Like if I told you to buy a stock in company ABC and its \$5, you would think its price is going to go up and you would make some money... So, if you bought at 5, and in 5 months the price goes up to \$20, you are happy because you made money. That's called buying a stock long. 99% of all people do this. To buy a stock short and using the same example ABC, means the long positions are buying a stock at the same \$5, but you think the price is going to drop. So, if the stock went from \$5 and ABC corp drops to \$1 because they are losing money that means you made money if you shorted the stock, because you bought the stock at \$1 dollar to sell it to the long position at \$5.

They were angry that a big Wall Street guy shorted GameStop and then wrote an article like a few weeks later allegedly on why he was shorting it (WallStreetBets did the same thing with AMC Theaters and Nokia stock, and it could be more to come), and that's after the news of some new powerhouse guys came on the board of GME in January. The Hedge fund guys knew of the somewhat good news of GME, and opened up more short positions to keep the price down and protect their interest. They did it to the point where they had more short positions out there than GME had total stocks (67 Million shares) That's slimy of the Hedge fund guys, huh? That's Wall Street for ya. Basically, to get back at the Wall Street hedge funders, these Millennials and Gen Z reddit folks deliberately started to buy GME stock way past the price value. So, if Hedge fund guys are shorting the stock to \$1 and the price goes up to \$20, that means the Hedge fund guys have to buy the stock at \$20, so the Hedgefund loses \$15 a share. The guys

keep doing this even more which pumped up the price up of GME. They added insult to injury by using memes and them posting snapshots their stock gains when it started going up. And other people start buying it and getting in on the action. And that's how GME rose from about \$2.50 to \$480 a share.

What happened next after the guys stuck it to the Hedge fund managers? Robinhood and a couple other broker accounts stop allowing its customers to buy GME, but allowed them to sell it. Which drives down the price. Which got the average investor thinking that the brokerage firms are protecting the hedge fund managers from the loses. They never protect the people when the Hedge fund managers are winning.

SEC is looking into whether this one section of Reddit did anything illegal. It's unlikely WallstreetBets did anything criminal. After all, it did help some pensions funds like Ontario Teachers pension become solvent again.

GameStop may also become America's sweetheart as the public becomes aware of the company starring in all the madness. We are behind GameStop 100%, and as the say "Power to the Players" Let's see how this turns out. The storm on the Capitol made people think it could be a civil war. The short squeeze on GameStop makes people believe there could be a class war in the makings after all. It's a lot going on, and that's just in the first month of 2021. If you want to invest, please use the link below. Whether your 20 or 60, a new transfer of wealth is upon the horizon. This isn't just the USA going through a change. The whole world is... It won't be easy, but you never know until you try.

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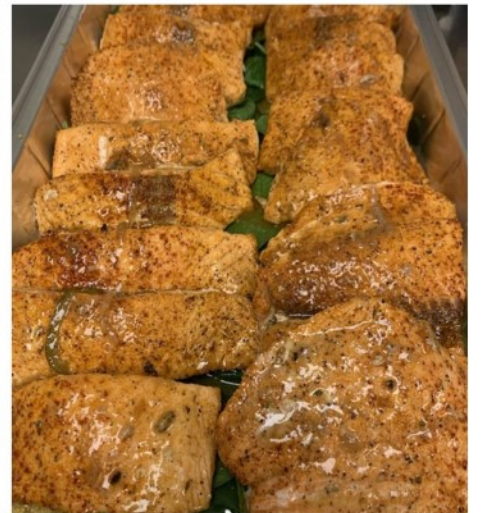
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