

OPDC

# OAKLAND TOGETHER

October 2022

A Newsletter for Older  
Oakland Residents

## Who Owns Your Home?



One important way families build wealth is by passing their home to the next generation. However, this wealth can be threatened by “tangled title.”

Tangled title is a broad term covering situations when family members have an interest in a home, may even be occupying it, but are not on the deed. This commonly occurs when a parent passes away and does not leave a will, or if they had a will but the heirs do not open an estate. Residents are unable to get financial help from public agencies for repairs, deal with a delinquent mortgage, or obtain homeowner’s insurance.

“That’s where we come in,” says Peter Lewis, an attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS). “We can help individuals or refer them to other programs they are eligible for.”

Tangled title is a problem here in Oakland, just



like most city neighborhoods. Lewis estimates there are at least 4,000 tangled title properties in Allegheny County. These homes are at risk of becoming abandoned and condemned.

“People start getting harassing phone calls and letters, so they leave,” says Lewis. “Resolving these cases is one solution for affordable housing. What’s more affordable than a house you already live in?”

The people who come to NLS for help understand this. “It’s kind of amazing. They’re aware of the ramifications and want to preserve intergenerational wealth,” says Lewis. “The goal is to stabilize home ownership and possession.”



Peter Lewis

*Join us for Let’s Talk: Tangled Title on October 19th (see reverse side for more).*

# Belgian Blocks Back in Spring

Chesterfield Road's Belgian blocks are gone for now, but PWSA plans to return them, says Mora McLaughlin, Construction Communications Project Manager. "We expect full restoration of the Belgian blocks to be completed in the spring."

PWSA will reuse blocks and replace with a matching style where needed. The agency will continue to install water mains and new service lines until January.



*PWSA has paved Chesterfield Road for now, but will replace the Belgian blocks in spring.*



Oakland Planning  
and Development  
Corporation

294 Semple St  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>  
<<ADDRESS>>  
<<CITY>> <<STATE>>, <<ZIP>>

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Pittsburgh, PA  
PERMIT NO. 1565

Visit our website for complete information on OPDC's community activities and projects:  
[www.opdc.org](http://www.opdc.org)

## Events

### **Zone 4 Meeting: Firearms Tracking Unit**

*Oct 20. 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.  
Jewish Community Center*

Gun violence has spiked since 2020. Join the Zone 4 Public Safety Council to learn about the Firearms Tracking Unit and how you can help promote gun safety.

### **Let's Talk: Tangled Title**

*Oct 19. 6 p.m.—7 p.m. Via Zoom*

Peter Lewis, attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS), will take your questions following a presentation to understand tangled title and how residents can request assistance from NLS to resolve it.



### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://bit.ly/letstalkoct22>  
Meeting ID: 829 4683 8403  
Passcode: 483514  
Phone: (646) 558 8656