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# Meet the local bringing laughs to an old church

**Plus, purple skies prove a strange surprise  
for PA eyes.**

By Colin Williams

**Hey hey, Tuesday.** Coming off the holiday weekend and starting the week on a Tuesday can be a bit disorienting... almost as disorienting as seeing a strange purple glow in the skies of Pennsylvania.

It turns out there are two distinct explanations for this phenomenon. If your street or small town is looking a little more [Grimace-y](#) than usual, chances are the culprit is a batch of defective LED streetlamps. Locals across the continent have been bewildered and bemused by the violet glow [resulting from a defective coating on LED bulbs](#) designed to give them a full-spectrum glow. The manufacturer is replacing most of these bulbs under warranty.

Elsewhere, another explanation could be in play — the Commonwealth’s medical cannabis growing operations. Purple lights apparently help the purple haze grow, and over some facilities, [the sky at night has a distinctly Prince-like aura](#). Neighbors of these grow-ops can expect the glow to dim after the darkest parts of winter pass and sunlight plays more of a role in the plants’ nutrition.

Speaking of bringing color to Pennsylvania, today’s [Local to Know](#) moved here and bought a church with the explicit goal of creating a comedy incubator. His base of operations — the Steel City Arts Foundation, or [Steel City AF](#) — is a repurposed church in Stanton Heights (**Editor’s note:** Not terribly far from yours truly! Don’t worry, Steve; [I love the mural](#)). Meet **Steve Hofstetter**, comedian, arts leader, good neighbor and general mensch. Take it away, Steve!

# 💡 Locals to Know: Meet Steve Hofstetter, Stanton Heights' deacon of comedy



**Hi, Steve! Tell us how you ended up in Pittsburgh.**

I'd been looking for a place to create a foundation like this for years. The pandemic motivated me to stop wasting time and finally get it started. I found the building first, and I'd toured in Pittsburgh a ton and always thought it was an underrated city. The more research I did, the more I liked it. It's a wonderful place to be based as a stand-up. Affordable, close to other markets, and easy to traverse.

**Stanton Heights isn't known as a cultural hotbed, yet we've now had shows and a [movie shoot](#) at Steel City AF. What is your long-term vision for the space?**

Well, the shows we've produced have been in Lawrenceville. We can't hold live events at the building until we get our zoning [approved by the city]. The long-term vision is still centered around providing mentorship, equipment, and a creative space for comedians. We also hope to hold regular classes and occasional events. Steel City AF isn't just a building — we are producing and mentoring all over Pittsburgh and beyond.



*Steel City AF members doing their thing in Stanton Heights.*

**What are some of the adjustments you had to make moving here?**

I had to learn about parking chairs and get used to sometimes having to miss my exit because it's four lanes over during rush hour.

**Is there something you think Pittsburgh does better (or worse) than anywhere else?**

The views — why doesn't everyone know about the views? Half this city is rivers and bridges and mountains, and yet most people who have never been to Pittsburgh have no idea just how physically gorgeous it is here.

**What are some of your favorite food/drink/entertainment spots in the 'Burgh?**

There's a small place called [Thai Table](#) that my girlfriend and I are obsessed with. The food is fantastic and the staff couldn't be nicer. I also LOVE the [Clemente Museum](#). I'm a baseball guy, and it's just so well done. And [Vue 412](#) is our favorite upscale restaurant. The food is wonderful, but again, what a view.

**It looks like you're going to be [on the road quite a bit this year](#) — what's your next Pittsburgh appearance, and where can our readers find you online in the meantime?**

I have a [Valentine's Day show](#) at Hop Farm in Lawrenceville, and I'm also [headlining at the Rose in White Oak on April 22](#). I also just released a new full-length comedy special on my YouTube called "[The Recipe](#)" — if people want to get to know my comedy, watching that is the best way.

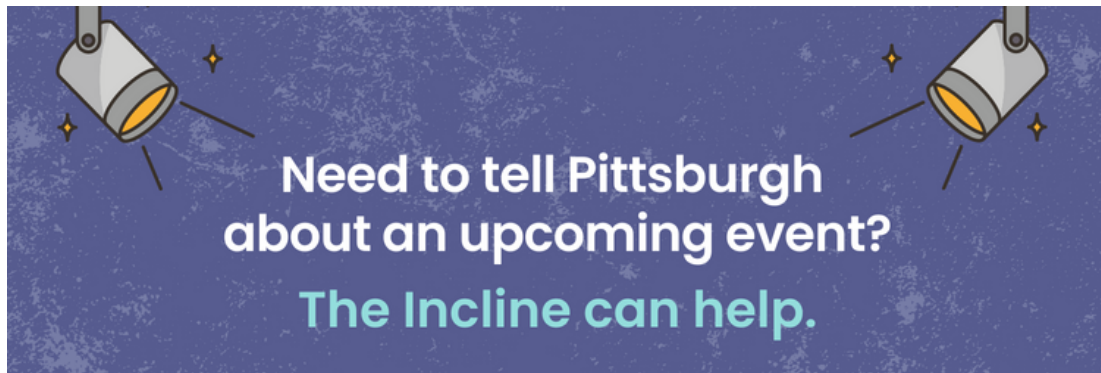
*See Steve live by clicking the above links, or follow Steve on social media and YouTube at [@SteveHofstetter](#) and Steel City AF on social [@SteelCityAF](#) for the latest happenings*

AF on socials [@steelcityAF](#) for the latest happenings.

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## Things to do

[Submit your events to our calendar.](#)

Today


 See a live performance of “Dancing with the Stars” at the Benedum Center ([Downtown](#))


 Watch the '80s classic “The Breakfast Club” at Bottlerocket ([Allentown](#))

 See an acoustic set by Chris Barron of the Spin Doctors ([Station Square](#))


Tomorrow

 Sip and salsa at Kingfly Spirits ([Strip District](#))

 Compete in “the greatest trivia show in the entire universe” at St. Clair Social featuring drink specials ([East Liberty](#))


 Enjoy the Steel Wheels and special guest Dave Shepherd at Club Cafe ([Southside](#))

## Thursday

 Enjoy a delicious buffet while pouring your own candle at Revival on Lincoln ([Bellevue](#))

 Learn the history of the Kaufmanns, one of Pittsburgh’s preeminent families ([Squirrel Hill](#))

Try your hand at mending and give your older clothes new life ([Squirrel Hill](#))

 Stretch out with a beer during an all-levels yoga hour at Necromancer Brewing ([Ross](#))


## Friday


 Support rescue pets during a kitty bingo night ([Ross](#))


 Throw it back during '90s night at Howl at the Moon ([Downtown](#))


## Saturday





 Learn more about the Frick Environmental Center, one of the greenest buildings in the world ([Squirrel Hill](#))

 Sip on hot chocolate at Venture Outdoor's EveryBODY Outdoors size-inclusive hike ([Point Breeze](#))


 Join PARSEC, Pittsburgh's premier Science Fiction & Fantasy Organization, for the year's first meeting ([Online](#))

 Come audition for an award-winning women's chorus in the North Hills ([Wexford](#))

 Experience a hilarious and optimistic new play about what the constitution means for the future of America through Jan. 26 ([Southside](#))

 See “Jerome &” the comedy variety show that combines improv, music, sketch, stand-up, & you ([Downtown](#))

## Sunday

 Paint with mud, make designs with loose nature materials, or make a nature envelope ([Squirrel Hill](#))

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## That's all, folks

See ya tomorrow with this week's news!

– **Colin at The Incline**

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2093 Philadelphia Pike #1733, Claymont, DE 19703

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