

The Citizens Report

A bimonthly publication of the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation

Volume 38, Issue I

January/February 2008

The Railings on Brighton Heights Boulevard

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation began last spring to paint the railings lining the sides of Brighton Heights Boulevard. It had been a slow process, getting done panel by panel as time allowed. Enter Hyrum Peterson. Hyrum was looking for an Eagle Scout project that would make a difference in his community. When he noticed that there was still so much of the railing to be painted, he had his dad contact the Federation and inquire about the project.

It took the entire summer for Hyrum to get the OK from the Boy Scouts of America to organize and direct the finish-

ing of this project for his Eagle Scout badge work. No fewer than 34 workers turned up on Saturday, October 6th to do the painting. In a few hours, the job was complete and the finished product is on display for all to see.

Many thanks to Hyrum and his bevy of volunteers: Alec and Steve Ader, Mary Adkins, Mike Bennett, Calvin Bergmann, Clayton Brown, Zach Caine, Alec Chapman, Mike Dabell, Brianne and Dan Dewey, James Dinger, Dave Estes, Ben and Mike Keller, Hyun and Meehyun Kim, Kyle Lambert, Mike and Pete Layland, Linda, Kieth Martez, North Shore LDS Missionaries, Perri and Shelly Olsen, Erich, Molly and Noel Peterson, Bruce and Steve Smith, Stephanie, Dave Theilet and Susan Urbanek.

It is certainly refreshing to see the youth of our community inspired to make a difference.



**Next General
Membership Meeting**
Thursday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m.
Brighton-McClure Presbyterian Church
Corner of Brighton Road and Benton Ave

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Farewell

Each year as we hold elections for the Board of Directors, we get to welcome fresh faces to the board. It is exciting to anticipate the new ideas and strengths of the freshman members, but it is sad to say goodbye to members who are moving on. This year we have two members of the past board resigning, Cathy Kernan and Jan Held.

Cathy Kernan served as Corresponding Secretary for two years and did an outstanding job. She moved the answer line phone and FAX to her home and has agreed to keep it there and get the messages for us, not a small task. She has contributed her organizing skills and computer knowledge to the efforts of the board. She has spent countless hours planting flowers and digging up weeds with no complaints, even though she could barely move the next day. She shows up and participates in all of the Federation activities, and we hope she will still stay active. Her organizing ability and dry wit will be sorely missed at the meetings.

Jan Held has been on the board for four years, serving as a valuable member and current president of the Portal Committee. She has contributed her excellent architectural skills to the design and implementation of the Brighton Heights sign on Ohio River Boulevard. She has helped guide the process of design and grant applications for the proposed roundabout on California Avenue. She is actively involved in promoting green space in the community and has also been a big contributor to the flower gardens. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree in public administration at Carnegie Mellon University, so we hope to benefit from her acquired skills in the future.

Both members have vowed to stay active in the Federation. We wish them the best in their new endeavors and hope to see them at our activities as their time permits.

BHCF Election

Each year the Federation elects half the members of the Board of Directors, with the elected members serving for two years. The election was held at the General Membership Meeting on November 8th, and all of the candidates were unopposed.

This year we have two members of the past board resigning, Cathy Kernan and Jan Held. They have pledged to continue involvement with the Federation, just not as members of the board.

Gert Long joins Helen Wehner as a Director Emeritus of the Federation. This means that she will be on the board as long as she chooses to participate, but she will no longer have to run for election. This status recognizes both Helen and Gert as long time board members who have contributed their service to the board longer than any others and who have, at times, held the board together. They are always there for our many activities, inspiring the rest of the board with their dedication.

We welcome as new members of the Board of Directors Ray Meyer, who returns as Vice President, Becky Spevack, who will serve as the new Recording Secretary and Matt Haberman and Sally Moessner who will be new board members. We look forward to working with these new members and hope that they will enjoy their participation on the board.

Reelected members include officers Pete Bellisario (President), Andy McLaren (moving from Recording Secretary to Corresponding Secretary) and Joan Bellisario (Treasurer.) And returning board members Ron Lindow, Tom Kaylor and Jeff Worsinger.



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The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation began last spring to put the railings along the sides of Brighton Heights Boulevard. It had been a slow process, getting some good by word of mouth. Enter Hyman Peterson. Hyman was looking for an Eagle Scout project that would make a difference in his community. When he realized that there was still so much to be done he had to find a way to contact the Federation and inquire about the project.

Many thanks to Hyman and his army of volunteers: Alan, Steve, Adam, Mike, Yvonne, Mike, Robert, Colin, Benjamin, Clayton, Brian, Zach, Carrie, Alex, Chapman, Mike, Daniel, Stephen and Dan. Donor: James Deiger, Dave Estes, Ben and Mike, Robert, Steve and Phyllis, Ken, Kyle, Lambert, Mike and Mike, Leonard, Linda, Keith, Martin, Harold, Steve, LIZ, Phil, Lawrence, Peter and Sandy, Chris, Cindy, Patsy and Fred, D's, Brian, Bruce and Steve, Smith, Stephen, Clem, Thelma and Susan, Liliand.

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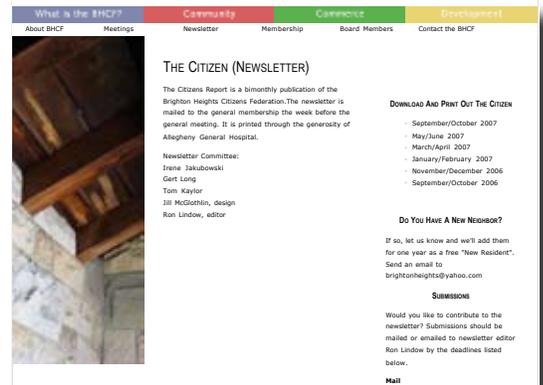
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You Have a Choice!

This newsletter is available on line at our site, www.brightonheights.org

The website version is in color and includes more photos.

So if you would rather just receive the electronic version as an e-mail edition and not bother with the printed newsletter, please let us know at brightonheights@yahoo.com



What is the BHCF? About BHCF Meetings

Community Newsletter

Connect Membership Board Members

Involve Contact the BHCF

THE CITIZEN (NEWSLETTER)

The Citizen Report is a bimonthly publication of the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation. The newsletter is mailed to the general membership the week before the general meeting. It is printed through the generosity of Allegheny General Hospital.

Newsletter Committee:
Irene Jakubowski
Gert Long
Tom Kaylor
Jill McGoethlin, design
Ron Lindow, editor

DOWNLOAD AND PRINT OUT THE CITIZEN

September/October 2007
May/June 2007
March/April 2007
January/February 2007
November/December 2006
September/October 2006

Do You Have A New Neighbor?

If so, let us know and we'll add them for one year as a free "New Resident". Send an email to brightonheights@yahoo.com

SUBMISSIONS

Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Submissions should be mailed or emailed to newsletter editor Ron Lindow by the deadlines listed below.

Mail

Dress for Winter Outdoor Activity



Susan Butcher leads her team of 15 dogs on Day Five of the Iditarod dogsled race. Temperatures are near zero degrees Fahrenheit as they travel along the Yukon River. The wind makes it feel like 20 below. And frostbite is a constant concern. Can you survive the Alaska winter extremes? Yes, if you dress right.

Fortunately we rarely have such extreme cold in Pittsburgh. But how do you dress for activity or exercise in the cold? Do you need a parka?? What about a hat, which could mess up your hair??? How cold is too cold????

Physical activity in the cold is usually fine, as long as you dress for it. (The exceptions would be for some people with heart or lung disease. And a few other rare conditions. Often the recommendation for these individuals is to avoid extended time outdoors if the temperature is below freezing. Some physicians may use 40 degrees as the guideline. So if you have an illness, discuss this guideline with your doctor.)

If it's cold, cover exposed skin. Some believe that you lose most of your heat through your head. The truth is, you lose heat from exposed skin. (If your head is not covered, it's exposed skin—don't expect your hair to insulate as well as a hat.) Your toes, fingers and ears are particularly

vulnerable to cold so it's important that you cover them. Wear heavy socks, gloves and boots. But avoid footwear that's too tight because it will limit circulation, making cold feet more likely.

Is a parka the best? Maybe for extreme cold, but several layers of clothing are usually best. These trap air between the layers, improving insulation. And if you're getting too warm, like when shoveling snow, you can zip the outside layer open.

Avoid cotton next to the skin. Cotton soaks up the sweat leaving a damp layer next to the skin. Synthetic materials are preferred, with modern Thermamax and UnderArmor or older polypropylene being great choices for cool weather underwear. Polypropylene or polyester materials, having been around longer, are often fairly cheap. The synthetic materials do not absorb sweat; they wick moisture to the second layer of clothing, keeping your skin dry.

It gets really cold, yes. But that's easy to remedy by dressing appropriately.

Northside STRIDE is a community based walking program that promotes physical activity and overall wellness. The walking program is an initiative of the Northside Health Improvement Partnership. For more information about Northside STRIDE, please contact Stephani Greenleaf at 412-330-2535

The Northside Health Improvement Partnership (NSHIP) is a collaborative effort of community and not-for-profit health related organizations. The mission of the NSHIP is to **improve the health of all Northside residents**. Participating members of NSHIP include Allegheny General Hospital, Northside Leadership Conference, Allegheny County Health Department, Central Northside Neighborhood Council, Councilwomen Darlene Harris and Tonya Payne, Northside Christian Health Center, American Heart Association, Highmark, VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, Mercy Behavioral Health, American Cancer Society, Troy Hill Citizens, Inc. and Fineview Citizen's Council.

Halloween Parade 2007

Shopping for the 2007 Halloween parade began at the end of September. Dan Klobucar, Gert Long, Peggy Urzua and Pete Bellisario once again fulfilled their childhood dreams of filling four shopping carts full of toys at the Toys R Us best sale of the season. We are most appreciative to Toys R Us for giving us a 10% discount to boot. Then Pete, Gert and Joan Bellisario got to fill two flatbed carts with candy and chips a few weeks later.

Thanks to Risen Lord Church, we had a new place to do the candy packing this year (on October 25th.) With another efficient production line, 300 bags of candy were packed in less than two hours. Those manning the packing line, worthy of an I Love Lucy episode, were Adam Meyer, Ray Meyer, Helen Wehner, Donna Kramer, Ann Hemke, Cathy Kernan, Allyson Notaro, Joan Bellisario, Andy and Sue McLaren, Janice Johns, Roy Ingleman, Tom Kaylor and Gert Long.

A cool and windy day was almost welcome in lieu of the dire predictions of rain in the forecast for the parade on Saturday, October 27th. We had 201 children register for the parade and it went off without a hitch. The sun was even shining at times! The parade went to Legion Park for the awards, but we are grateful to Emmanuel Christian Church on Davis Avenue for offering their meeting hall in case it did rain.

A big Thank You goes out to our neighbors along the parade assembly route on Davis and Massachusetts Avenues and on Shadland Avenue by Legion Park for graciously honoring our "No Parking" signs. We realize that this is an inconvenience for those families, even though it is a temporary one. This allows for the safe assembly of the children for the parade, and for the candy and prize distribution in Legion Park.

Kunsak Funeral Home once again generously allowed us to use their parking lot for registration and the judging of homemade costumes and even supplied a tent. We appreciate their support of this Federation activity and their support of many of our other functions.



Our parade judges, Fulton Miklos, Alice Murtha and Sandy Lazzara had a hard time ranking the 15 homemade costume winners. So they came up with 15 choices in no particular order. Those getting first chance at the prizes were:

- Little Tykes Garden** Destiny, Kaylee, and Aiden Stewart
- Dragon** Keegan Noe
- Little Miss Muffet** Hannah Kunsak
- Slot Machine** Dakota Chirdon
- Skelton** Nikolai Kunsak
- S. S. Termon Ship (pirate and parrot)** Stevie & Cassidy Sluss
- Scare Crow** Ryan Koah
- Spider with Arms** Matthew Riccard
- Yoga Cow** Liam Tinker
- Little Witch** Megan Liston
- Fire Fighter with hose** Harley Cochin
- Sponge Bob** Daninic Grimm
- Pirate** Jack Joyce
- Hannah Montana** Bailey Delcioix
- Abby Ka Dabby** Alectra McNeal



The parade was led by our faithful and much appreciated firefighters manning the engine from Fire Station #35. They were followed by the Oliver High School Band and the Junior ROTC unit. As usual, they provided class and dignity to the parade

Halloween Parade

with their precision marching. We are especially thankful to all these young people for the generous gift of their time and talents and for setting such a good example for the younger children.

Registering kids, transporting and giving out candy and prizes, organizing the parade, taking pictures and cleaning up were: Allison Murtha, Peggy Urzua, Andy and Sue McLaren, Jill McGlothlin, Ray Meyer, Ann Hemke, Pete and Joan Bellisario, Dan Klobucar, Cathy Kernan, Tom Kaylor and Evelyn Cavaliere.

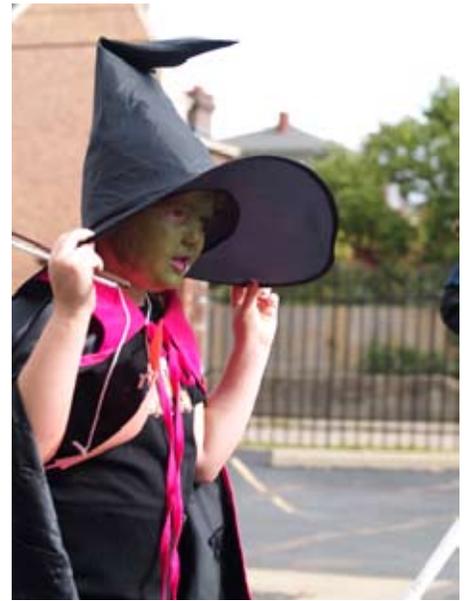
Mayor Luke Ravenstahl attended the parade and Councilwoman Darlene Harris helped draw the winner's numbers. The children were entertained by Frankie the Fish from ALCOSAN, Wendy and Sparky the Firedog.











Neighborhood Forums, Demolition of Eyesores, Legislation on the Internet



Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Dear Neighbors,

First and foremost, thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to lead our great City. Thank you for believing in me and for believing in what we can and will accomplish.

We have already achieved a great deal together, but we can do more. Through our Neighborhood Forums, we have listened to your feedback, and we now know what you most desire for your communities. We have made your requests our priority. As I work to build a more fiscally responsible government, we will find ways of doing more with less. We must be as efficient and effective as possible.

Experts unanimously approved my Fiscal Year 2008 Budget and updated Five-Year Financial Forecast, declaring it "healthy." My budget and plan for 2008 call for putting resources back into the neighborhoods and into services for our residents.

My commitment to public safety is reflected in next year's capital budget by committing more City resources to keeping our neighborhoods clean and safe. We are turning the tide on neglect by eliminating the inherited backlog of vacant structures. To do this, we have doubled the budget for demolitions next year. The abandoned vehicle legislation that passed in October has enabled us to remove more than 220 of these eyesores. Recently, one of our cameras helped to catch an arsonist in Polish Hill. What an amazing return on our community investment! This reinforces the importance of the camera surveillance initiative proposed in my 2008 budget.

We will continue to invest in the Redd Up and Green Up programs. As we increase demolitions of hazardous structures, we must think long-term and implement strategies to turn vacant lots into lively places for the community. Through our pilot program, we transformed approximately 40 blighted, empty lots into green spaces. Currently, we are engaging in conversations that we hope will lead to the funding that will allow us to expand Green Up Pittsburgh's success.

In addition to implementing initiatives to curb blight, we continue to make strides in ensuring that City government is operating transparently, effectively and efficiently. The City of Pittsburgh has partnered with community groups to bring in The Reinvestment Fund (TRF) to conduct a citywide Market Value Analysis (MVA). This data-driven analysis of our communities will help our leaders rebuild neighborhoods through an effective, transparent and market-based process.

We recently made City legislation available to all internet users. By launching In Site, we created the means to connect you, our taxpayer, with the legislation that goes before Council and ultimately affects you and your family. To access this information, as well as any other useful City information, please log onto www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us

In addition, if you would like more information regarding our Neighborhood and Public Safety initiatives, or would like to have someone from my administration attend one of your meetings to answer these questions and to provide the information, please call 412-255-2566. We are also committed to keeping our existing properties in good condition. We recognize the need for an organized inspection and registration program for residential rental units located within the City. Rental units must meet all applicable building, existing structures, fire, health, safety, and zoning codes, and we will now provide an efficient system for compelling both absentee and local landlords to correct violations and maintain, in proper condition, rental property within the City.

We have begun to truly market our Sideyard Sale program. If you have a vacant, city-owned lot next to your home, please contact us for more information regarding the acquisition of this property. For a low cost, you can purchase this lot, increasing your property value while helping to revitalize your neighborhood. For more information please contact the City's Real Estate Department at 412-255-2300.

This is just a short list of the initiatives that I have launched in the City's neighborhoods over the past few months. We are making progress, but there is still work to be done. I look forward to hearing from you and working together with you as we continue to move the City forward and energize Pittsburgh's future.

President's Message by Pete Bellisario

Upcoming Clean-up, Abandoned Cars, Problem Houses and One Gorgeous Railing

Winter is here. I want to thank those who attended the General Membership Meeting in November and voted for the slate of officers for Board of Directors. We will work on issues as they arise that are of importance to the neighborhood.

I know that I am early in bringing up the subject of spring but it is never too early to start thinking about clean-up and flowers. The Greater Pennsylvania Cleanup is an annual program to pick up all types of litter, and the state public works personnel pick up everything that we collect. Normally we focus on the Brighton Heights Boulevard, California and Termon Avenue areas. We have in the past policed areas such as Antrim Street and Fleming Avenue. The point to make here is that we can do as much as the number of volunteers allows. So think about Saturday, April 19th and be ready to volunteer. We have not firmed up the date to work on our flower beds at the intersection of Termon and California Avenues. The perennials we planted last year have done well, so we will be asking for more donations of plants. And we will buy some annuals to make this intersection very colorful for the summer.

We have two ongoing problems in the neighborhood that would benefit from input and participation from the membership. These problems are abandoned cars and problem properties. What we are asking for are volunteers who are interested in working with the Board and the City of Pittsburgh departments involved. This would NOT be a full time job nor would it involve being a member of the Board. What we envision is establishing a working committee with the Board of Directors taking the responsibility to take action.

The abandoned cars questions are resolved by working with Zone 1. The property questions would require participation by someone who could visit with City Planning on Ross Street. I would personally take the leader of the committee to the offices to facilitate the process for them. We work very closely with Darlene Harris on this issue, and she has been a tremendous help to us. Think about this. These problems affect all of us, and I know there is somebody out there who would be able to help. The easiest thing to do is complain; the hard part is actually doing something about it. Here is your chance to make a difference! Once we get a working committee established, maintaining the process will go smoothly.

Hopefully you have noticed that the painting of the railings on Brighton Heights Boulevard and Granada Street has been completed. Thanks to Hyrum Peterson, a recent newcomer to our neighborhood, who is working his Eagle Scout Project. Hyrum is the son of Erich and Molly Peterson. He jumped at the opportunity to work on a community-service project after seeing other volunteers scraping and painting the railings. He recruited 34 volunteers and had a work plan that was completed in a little over three hours. The railings look beautiful, especially when the sun is shining on them.

Now that the railings are much improved, the deteriorating wall that runs along the side of Brighton Heights Boulevard draws even more attention. State Senator Jim Ferlo pulled together a meeting of Guy Costa, Pittsburgh Director of Public Works and Gabe Mazefsky, Policy Manager, Office of the Mayor to discuss repairing the wall. Once the Public Works personnel develop estimates for the repair of the wall and the adjacent Davis Avenue steps, Senator Ferlo will work towards obtaining the funds. This is a great step forward since completely tearing down the wall is cost prohibitive. When this eyesore is fixed, we can work with the Sprout Fund to possibly design appropriate artwork to adorn the wall. Keep your fingers crossed and hope for the best.



Anticipation!

Darlene Harris, Councilwoman,
City of Pittsburgh

My wish for the residents of the North Side is great happiness, good health and prosperity in 2008. I look forward to my continued service as your elected City Council person for the next four years. I am excited by our joint accomplishments as well as the possibilities and challenges that lie ahead and will result in a better North Side. We must always keep in mind that government is a collaborative process and nothing can happen unless we work together. Please accept my warmest wishes for a wonderful New Year.

Please feel free to contact the office at 412-255-2135



State Rep. Don Walko Reports from Harrisburg:

Help with Heating Bills Available

Don Walko, State Representative

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, is now taking applications, and it's first-come, first-served.

Families don't have to be on cash assistance to qualify for LIHEAP. Consumers can receive assistance even if they have not missed a payment on a heating bill. Also, no lien is placed on the home of people who receive LIHEAP benefits.

Eligibility is based on household income and family size. For example, a family of four can qualify for LIHEAP if their household income is \$30,975 or less.

LIHEAP offers two types of grants. Cash grants of up to \$300 are available to help families pay regular monthly heating bills. The amount of the grant depends on income, household size, type of heating fuel and region of the state. Crisis grants of up to \$300 are also available to pay for heating emergencies such as a broken furnace or fuel shortage.

For more information, contact my office or the county assistance office at 412-565-2151 or 412-565-2146. The LIHEAP crisis line is 1-800-851-3838

Action in Harrisburg

In Harrisburg, I voted for two energy bills that passed the House recently. Both would help Pennsylvanians save money and increase our energy independence. One bill would create sales tax holidays to save consumers money on buying new, more efficient ENERGY STAR-rated appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners. The other bill the House passed would remove the sales tax on energy-saving, compact fluorescent bulbs. There are many other bills pending in the Special Session on Energy, and I hope to have more progress to report in a future column.

Tips to Save You Energy and Money

Heating Tips:

- Buy a programmable thermostat. It can help by adjusting the temperature according to your schedule.
- Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
- Heat only the rooms that you are using. Close the door and vents to unused rooms.
- Cool it with the hot water: for every degree you turn your water heater down, you could save \$4 a year. For most users, 115 degrees is comfortable.
- Unless your water heater's storage tank already has a high R-value of insulation (at least R-24), adding insulation to it can reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent. This will save you around four to nine percent in water heating costs. If you don't know your water heater tank's R-value, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch usually needs additional insulation.

Weatherization Tips:

- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- Install storm windows and use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during cold winter months to control temperature efficiency.
- Look for holes in your roof and all heating pipes and vents.

More energy conservation information is available at www.staywarmpa.com or www.energypa.org.

If you have questions on energy or any other state-related issue or subject, please call my office at 412-321-5523

Time to Register for Summer Sports!

Brighton Heights Athletic Association (BHAA) will host a pair of registration sessions for its summer sports programs at John Merry Field Complex, adjacent to Jack Stack Pool. BHAA hosts baseball, softball and co-ed teeball programs for children of all ages in Brighton Heights and surrounding communities.

Registration sessions will be held from noon to 4 PM on Saturdays, January 26th and February 2nd at Emmanuel Christian Church on Davis Avenue. These will be the only registration sessions for the 2008 season, so please plan to attend. Registration fees range from \$50 to \$90, depending on age bracket.

For more detailed information about registration and volunteer opportunities, visit www.bhaabaseball.org

Co-ed Teeball

Boys and girls ages 6 and under

Baseball Age Brackets

Farm League: ages 7 and 8

Junior Little League: ages 9 and 10

Senior Little League: ages 11 and 12

Pony: ages 13 and 14

Colt: ages 15 and 16

SuperColt: ages 17 and 18

Slowpitch Softball Age Brackets

Instructional: ages 7 and 8

10 and under: ages 9 and 10

12 and under: ages 11 and 12

15 and under: ages 13 to 15

18 and under co-ed: ages 16 to 18

Playing Partners

Teeball: program is completely in-house

Little League Baseball: Urban Impact, Northgate, Perry, Troy Hill

Pony / Colt / SuperColt: city big league teams

Softball: BAGAA, McCandless, Troy Hill, Bloomfield

Sponsorship Opportunities: \$250 per team

Contact Carol Gerner at 412-606-5646 for information

Volunteer Opportunities

- Coaches
- Field work
- Umpires
- Fund raising
- Concessions
- Events



**North Suburban
Symphonic Band**
Carl T. Iezzi, Conductor

Bottom's Up

Sunday, February 24, 2008 • 3:00 p.m.

The Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 • Cemetery Lane - North Hills • (I-279 - Exit 12 to Cemetery Lane)

For more information, call the NSSB Music Information Line (412) 366-1983, visit the NSSB web site:

www.nssband.org or email us at nssband@yahoo.com

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of November 8, 2007

I. Called to order by Andy McLaren standing in for President Bellisario

Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM

McLaren explained the procedures for this evening's election and which positions were to be filled. The candidates were announced and McLaren asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Seeing no additional nominations, the candidates were elected by acclamation.

McLaren advised that Richard Meritzer, Senior Planner for the City of Pittsburgh was attending the meeting to observe our organization.

Minutes of the September Meeting: approved as written.

2. Report of Officers:

President's Report

Andy McLaren for Pete Bellisario:

The Federation hosted another successful Hallowe'en parade on the last Saturday in October. Members of the Board and other friends of the Federation helped stuff bags of candy on the Thursday night prior to the Parade. Three hundred bags of candy were distributed to parade participants including the Oliver High School Band and Junior ROTC. Remaining candy bags were turned over to Meals On Wheels for distribution. Loose candy was provided to the Little Sisters of the Poor. Through the assistance of Director Dan Klobucar, we obtained \$1400 worth of toys and \$100 worth of gift cards from Toys R Us. McLaren also thanked Pete Bellisario and Gert Long for picking up the toys and organizing the prizes. Thanks also to our three judges who did a superb job of choosing the best of the homemade costumes during the Parade.

On Saturday, November 3rd volunteers gathered at The Wall along Brighton Heights Boulevard to plant bulbs and paint the rest of the metal railing. Director Sue Benn obtained about 500 flower bulbs for BHCF. We all look forward to seeing the riot of color that these bulbs will bring next spring. According to the Post-Gazette, many of the volunteers who painted the railing were organized by a Boy Scout as an Eagle Scout project.

McLaren made an appeal for someone to come forward to serve as our "Zoning Czar." He explained that we need a new person from the neighborhood to fill this role for the Federation by attending future meetings of the Zoning Board.

Treasurer's Report

Announced by McLaren on behalf of Joan Bellisario

Account Balances as of Sept. 13, 2007	
Monument Account.....	\$ 1,570.57
Operating Account	8087.64
State Grant Account.....	901.25
United Way Account.....	648.84
Total	\$ 11,208.34

Treasurer's Report approved by the membership.

3. Report of Committees:

Community Crime Prevention: Officer Hodges

Northside Public Safety Council meets on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM. NSPSC is located at Building 4, Allegheny Center in Suite 601.

There will be a Weed and Seed meeting before the Public Safety meeting. The Northside Council has an application in to get Weed and Seed funding. Only one group in the City is eligible to get this funding, starting in the upcoming year. It is a five-year program. In the first year the award is \$165,000. In the second year the award increases significantly. The third year's award is the same amount as the second year. Eventually, all \$1 million will be awarded over the five years of the award. Southside is also applying for this funding.

There were 86 reportable incidents in Brighton Heights during October with 26 arrests.

The "Citizen Observer" pilot program has been established on the Northside. It is a web-based program that sends out alerts to the community about crimes. These messages work something like the Amber Alert and are used judiciously so as not to spawn copycat crimes and other undesirable or unanticipated reactions.

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting

To contact Officer Hodges, phone 412-323-7200. He appealed to the group to give him input --- anything we need him to do, feel free to contact him. He will be on vacation the last two weeks in November and the last two weeks in December.

4. Special Guest

Nicole Knupsky, President of the Brighton Heights Athletic Association (BHAA)

They play baseball, softball and tee-ball leagues and are based at the Jack Stack Pool / John Merry Field Park.

She lives in Bellevue. When her son was ready to play tee-ball at age 5, she found they had no programs for kids of his age in Bellevue. BHAA welcomed her son even though it was after the normal registration date. That was several years ago, and it was such a welcoming group that her son has never left the program. She believes in their programs so much that she is now the President of BHAA.

BHAA has been around for 56 years and welcomes participants as young as 4 and as old as 18.

BHAA begins registration for the coming season in January, so there is plenty of work to be done all year.

In the past, they had enough teams to limit their play to Brighton Heights' teams. With the aging population, they now take on competing teams from around the area outside of Brighton Heights.

The Urban Impact Organization will be bringing in two teams next year. See page 13 in the newsletter for further information on team competitions.

The BHAA needs volunteers including coaches and umpires. No prior training required – they will train as needed. They also need people to cut the grass and put lines on the fields and volunteers for their concession stand.

Carol Gerner was introduced as the BHAA Fund Raiser (page 13.)

They want to have Opening and Closing Day ceremonies in 2008. They also want to host a tournament in late July of 2008.

Their meetings are held at Emmanuel Christian Church on Davis Avenue. Contact the President at 412-513-7087 for the next date.

Councilwoman Darlene Harris

was then announced (she had just arrived):

She encouraged support of the Nuisance Property legislation. It will focus on everything from high weeds, dogs running loose and loud music to suspected drug abuse. Under this legislation, the third time the police come or the Building Inspectors investigate; the owners of the property will have to pay the City for services incurred. There will be a public hearing December 3rd at 1:30 PM at City Council chambers on the 5th floor of the City-County Building.

Let her know what streets need to be paved in 2008.

Weedy properties are being addressed.

Motorcycle police are focusing on speeding in the neighborhood.

Councilwoman Harris has put pressure on contractors to get the bathrooms fixed at the deck hockey facility in Marmaduke Park.

She can be reached at her office at 412-255-2135

Portal Project

Ed Gergrich

The Committee has put in a \$500,000 application for 2009-2012 funding from the Congestion Management Air Quality Program (CMAQ). They are also putting in applications for matching funds. The proposed roundabout has the potential to alleviate air pollution as well as quiet traffic at the five-points intersection.

Applicants will be notified in the spring of 2008. Gergrich is optimistic that we will be funded this time.

Fun Run

Andy McLaren

We had another successful year of competition during the Brighton Heights "Run in the Park" 5K Run and Walk. Among the participants, we had several students from Rooney Middle School as well as members of a local Boy Scout troop.

There are significant costs involved in hosting an event like ours safely. However, with the support of 13 sponsors and our T-shirt sales, net revenue of around \$850 after all bills are paid will be used to support other BHCF initiatives.

A list of all the sponsors, in-kind donors and volunteers are posted at www.brightonheights.org and will also be published in the next newsletter.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

Ray Meyer advised that there are already 10 houses lined up for the Brighton Heights House Tour in 2008. The Committee will need people to stand at strategic locations to direct visitors through the neighborhood and to help with the neighborhood clean-up the day before the tour.

7. For the Good of the Federation

Dan Klobucar might be able to help BHAA with umpires.

The 50/50 drawing netted the Federation \$12.00

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectively submitted by Suzanne McLaren, on behalf of Andrew McLaren, BHCF Recording Secretary.

Brighton Heights Crime and Safety Report by Donna Kramer October 2007

Crimes

- 1 Simple assault
- 1 Aggravated assault
- 2 Armed persons
- 4 Burglaries
- 3 Receiving stolen property
- 12 Criminal mischief
- 1 Incident of shots fired
- 2 Driving Under the Influence
- 6 Harassment
- 4 Hit and run
- 7 Theft from auto
- 2 Theft from person
- 3 Theft from residence
- 1 Unauthorized use of vehicle
- 1 Warrant

Arrests

- 15 Drugs
- 1 Disorderly conduct
- 2 Driving Under the Influence
- 1 Failure to appear in court
- 1 False ID
- 2 Warrants
- 1 Receiving stolen property

For the month of October alone there were 72 arrests for drugs on the Northside. There were 289 arrests in all.

The police are out there and are doing their best to protect us. Let us be their ears and eyes. Report anything suspicious by calling 911

Commercial vehicle parking in residential neighborhoods after 7 PM is forbidden. Call 911 if you see a big rig parked after this time. They then have two hours to move it.

Have a safe winter. Please check on senior citizens during the winter.

We will resume the Crime Watch meetings in April.

Crimes Against the Elderly

This is the sixth in a series on How We Can Protect Ourselves from Being Swindled. It is based on the booklet *A Consumer Reference Guide for Seniors*, published by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General and provided by State Representative Don Walko.

Many advertisements claiming that you can earn money by working at home are scams.

A promise of being able to stuff envelopes, assemble small products, proofread or perform medical billing without even leaving home may seem sensational. But if you have to pay them to get started, it's likely a swindle.

Or there may be hidden costs that you're not told about until later.

As usual, if a deal seems too good to be true...well, you know the rest.

2008

(Leap Year)

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
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27	28	29	30	1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- ← New Year's Day
- ← General Membership Meeting
- ← Independence Day
- ← Martin Luther King Day
- ← Ash Wednesday
- ← Valentine's Day
- ← Presidents' Day
- ← Labor Day
- ← General Membership Meeting
- ← Saint Patrick's Day
- ← Rosh Hashanah begins
- ← Easter
- ← Yom Kippur
- ← Columbus Day
- ← Hallowe'en
- ← General Membership Meeting
- ← Vote
- ← Veterans' Day (11th)
- ← General Membership Meeting (13th)
- ← Mothers' Day
- ← Memorial Day
- ← Flag Day
- ← Thanksgiving
- ← Fathers' Day
- ← Christmas

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JULY

AUGUST

SEPT

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

www.brightonheights.org

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation	general membership meetings	the second Thursday of	January, March, May,	September and November	7:00 PM	Brighton-McClure Presbyterian Church	at Brighton and Benton
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Do You Have a New Neighbor?

If so, let us know and we'll add them for one year as a free "New Resident." And if you'd like to write something about Brighton Heights, please feel free to send your article to:

BHCF Newsletter, Box 99696, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Or e-mail it to Ron Lindow: rlindow45@comcast.net

Please include "Brighton Heights" in the subject line.

Newsletter Committee

Irene Jakubowski

Gert Long

Tom Kaylor

Jill McGlothlin

Ron Lindow, Editor

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the membership or the:

BHCF Board of Directors

Officers

President	Pete Bellisario
Vice President	Ray Meyer
Treasurer	Joan Bellisario
Corresponding Secretary	Andy McLaren
Recording Secretary	Becky Spevack

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Ann Hemke	Jeff Worsinger
Ralph Horgan	Director Emeritus:
Tom Kaylor	Gert Long
Dan Klobucar	Helen Wehner
Donna Kramer	

UNITED WAY # 188

Did you now that the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation is a United Way agency? You can make a donation to the Federation by choosing # 188 on your donation form. All United Way donations are used exclusively for our children's activities such as the Halloween Parade. For the past few years, the donations have not covered the costs involved for these activities. Any member making a United Way donation receives a one year extension on their membership. Usually the paperwork does not catch up with us until the year following the donation.

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation Info Quick List

Answer Line	(412) 734-0233
Website	www.brightonheights.org
E-mail	brightonheights@yahoo.com
Building permits (Bureau of Building Inspection)	(412) 255-2175
City Council Office	(412) 255-2136
State Representative Don Walko	(412) 321-5523
City Council Representative	(412) 255-2135
Mayor's Office	(412) 255-2626
Mayor's Service Center	(412) 255-2621
Report a burned-out street light (Seven days a week, 24 hours a day) If you can, provide the closest address, side of the street, and SL number located on the pole.	(412) 255-5483
ALCOSAN (Odor Control Hotline)	(412) 766-9445
Organized Crime, Narcotics and Intelligence Division (ONI)	(412) 665-4300
Police, Zone One Station	(412) 323-7201
Mayor's Response Line <i>Non-emergency services and government information</i> Monday through Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm	311
Police Fire Ambulance Emergencies	911

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation

PO Box 99696 • Pittsburgh, PA 15233 • Phone/Fax: 412-734-0233

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLAINT FORM

You may call the Mayor's Service Center at 412-255-2621 to report a problem you see in your neighborhood. You may also provide the Public Service Committee with this information by using this form. The Public Service Committee will send your complaint to the Mayor's Service Center on your behalf, or in addition to your complaint. You may drop this form off at the General Membership Meeting, or send it to the above address.

Description of the Problem	Address of problem location	
	Name of Property owner (if known)	
	Please circle one or more	Details:
	Health Concern	_____
	Safety Concern	_____
	Eyesore (Graffiti, etc.)	_____
	Other	_____
How long has this problem persisted?		
Dealings with the City	Has this problem been previously reported to the Mayor's service Center, a specific city department or any other agency?	If "Yes," which department? When? How frequently?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
Complaint Submitted by	You may submit this form anonymously, or if you want a response from the Public Service Committee about your complaint, please fill in this box.	Name _____
		Address _____

		Phone Numbers: Day _____ Evening _____
		E-mail address (optional) _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Next

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 10th 7:00 PM

Brighton-McClure Presbyterian Church
Corner of Brighton and Benton

Your cancelled check will be your receipt. Your membership renewal date will be reflected on your mailing label. For example, "12/07" means your membership expires in December 2007.

DUES AMOUNT		TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$7.50	Family	<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	Individual (Unmarried)	Enclosed Membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2	Social (Non-resident)	Dues are for _____ years	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	Corporate/Group	Additional	Donation _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$3	Individual over 65		

Please make your check payable to "BHCF, Inc." and send to:
BHCF Treasurer
Box 99696
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
Please don't send cash.
Thank you!!

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____