



# The Citizens Report

A bimonthly publication of the Brighton Heights Citizen's Federation

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## President's Message *by Pete Bellisario*

### Halloween Parade, Christmas Tree and New Houses

There are many articles in this newsletter that will tell the story of what we have done and what will be happening in the near future. The Halloween Parade is always a blast and a fun time for all! It's better when we have a lot of children from Brighton Heights participating, so bring your children. The Christmas Tree Light Up Night gets better each year because of greater participation. Yes, Santa will make an appearance.

The Federation has been working for many years on building private homes on the old Saint John's property. The City of Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) owns the property and, through meetings and planning, we have the beginnings of redevelopment of that area. At the November URA board meeting, there will be a budget item presented to the board to build three houses on the corner of McClure Avenue and Antrim Street. This area was a small parking lot for Saint John's. My expectation is that this project will be approved and that shovels will be in the ground as early as this December 2011.

We are still working on the larger issue of the grounds that housed the hospital. This particular effort has been the most difficult to work because of engineering concerns about the stability of the topography of the grounds that slope down from Fleming Avenue. We will continue to work hard to keep this project moving in the right direction.

Hope to see you at the Federation election and general membership meeting on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Pittsburgh Morrow auditorium.

## A Fun Fall Fact

Do you know what weather conditions produce the best fall color?

Autumn weather that favors good production of soluble carbohydrates in the leaves will lead to more splendid fall coloring. Dry, sunny and cool conditions but not lots of heavy frost are best for bringing out the reds, oranges and bright yellows.

# Minutes of the BHCF General Membership Meeting of September 8, 2011

The meeting was brought to order at 7:10 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### Special Guests:

**Olivia Clark**, principal of Pittsburgh Morrow explained the caring and learning atmosphere of the school. All the students profess every day to be "Promise Ready," referring to learning so as to be able to be eligible for the "Pittsburgh Promise", the program that pays all or part of the child's college education when the time comes. Each day the principal, teachers and students have rubrics that must be met. Students receive "Morrow Promise Bucks" to inspire better performance.

**Mary Beth Parks**, head librarian at the Woods Run Library was accompanied by Jake Pawlak and Karen Derzic, president of the Friends of the Woods Run Library. They spoke about "Our Library, Our Future," whose supporters are asking Pittsburgh residents to vote YES on a referendum on the ballot in November. This referendum will be for a 0.25 mill special tax on all taxable real estate in the City of Pittsburgh. It's to be allocated and used only for the maintenance and operation of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Karen invited those present to join the Friends of the Library for their next meeting on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7 PM at the Woods Run Library.

**Ivan Thorpe and Ron Zangaro** from Holy Family Institute spoke about their 12-week Workforce Development Program for youths, male and female, from ages 16 to 24. This is an effort to increase the successful transition of youth into the community and workforce. They will prepare their students to obtain entry-level jobs in selected fields or pursue additional training at tech schools, community colleges or apprenticeship programs. They will also provide placement services for employment or continuing education as part of the program. They meet twice a week and provide transportation and a meal.

**EMS Deputy Chief Mark Boshen** spoke about the availability of 911 services in Brighton Heights. Due to curtailment of personnel and vehicles, our closest EMS response team, Medic 10 in Brightwood, is out of service from 11 PM to 7 AM. So the call center must prioritize calls during that time, and it may take a little longer to get a response. Life threatening situations will still get priority, and first responders will continue to go to "life threatening emergencies" as fast as possible. Any concerns residents have concerning this should be in letters to the Public Safety Council.

**Officer Hodges**, our Community Relations Officer gave out copies of the latest crime stats and talked about incidents in and near our neighborhood. He urged concerned citizens to get involved in the Block Watch programs. He spoke about the nuisance property ordinance and the Riccardi bill. This bill essentially gives a property owner two chances to correct problems, with the third strike incurring discipline. He will check on the availability of the decibel meter to check on offensive noise levels in the neighborhood. He invited neighbors to the Public Safety meetings where you can see the District Attorney, judges, and parole officers in action.

### Report of Officers and Others:

Pete Bellisario, President:

Mayor's meeting: Mayor Luke Ravenstahl came to the neighborhood to discuss our current concerns. Topics brought to the Mayor's attention included the Davis Avenue Bridge, the Mairdale soccer field, the Northside public schools, including the importance of the Junior ROTC program at Oliver High School, the Saint John's site and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Antrim Street beautification project slated for Sept 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and the October 22<sup>nd</sup> City-wide cleanup.

### Treasurer's Report, Joan Bellisario:

Monument Account: \$1731.91	Operating Account: \$22,207.70	State Grant Account: \$905.57
United Way Account: \$2631.68		Total: \$27,476.86

# Minutes of the BHCF General Membership Meeting of September 8, 2011, continued...

## NorthSide Leadership Conference representative Peggy Urzua:

NSLC meeting of September 7, 2011:

The Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) partnership is sponsoring a program to recycle tote bags. These will then be distributed to food pantries to lower costs. These can be delivered to AGH and the NSLC at the end of September.

AGH is also sponsoring a new health needs survey since it has been almost 10 years since the last one. She asked those present to fill in the form and turn it in or mail it in before September 30<sup>th</sup>.

A youth music program called ROX will begin a six-week session of free music lessons, for the time being in the NSLC building, for low income kids beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The signage committee is opposing a change in the current city signage regulations that would increase the current number (1400) of billboards in the City, especially for the Bayer sign on Mount Washington and any that would affect the North Side.

The Education Committee will continue to support the School Board given the major obstacles of the current state budget and the dropping enrollment.

The reconnection of Federal Street and East Ohio Street is still being planned.

It was agreed to give Summer Hill a \$12,000 interest-free loan to be reimbursed when the paperwork from the City is completed.

The Brighton Heights Flea Market will be held on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 2 PM in Legion Park.

## Guest:

**City Council President Darlene Harris:** The Davis Avenue Bridge is still slated to have a design in place in 2012 but we will need federal and state monies. She met with the police chief on the North Side concerning the shots fired in Brightwood, Spring Hill, Fineview and Brighton Heights. The soccer field is once again progressing. Two student fellows are working with the City to identify more than 300 empty lots and propose uses for them. Each police zone should have a working decibel meter to monitor excessive noise. City Council is working on the noise ordinance. Thanks for the votes!

## Discussion of Old and New Business:

The pop machine by the Orchlee firehouse is a source of problems for the neighbors.

The ALCOSAN open house will be held on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

The 50/50 Raffle: the winner of \$17 was Joan Bellisario. And \$18 was donated to the treasury.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Bellisario

## Preparing for Winter

You know it's coming, so you might as well get ready to face the inevitable. Here are a few basic things that you can do to secure your home until spring:

Clean heater filters. Take out window air conditioners and door screens, clean with a hose or brush and store until spring. Turn fan to opposite direction from the summer setting — blades should turn in a clockwise direction for winter. To test if blades are turning in the proper direction, stand directly beneath the fan. You should not feel a breeze. Cover and/or store lawn and patio furniture.

## **Halloween Parade 2011**

By the time the newsletter is sent out, we will have had another Halloween Parade in Brighton Heights. The plan is to assemble and register in the Kunsak parking lot at the corner of Davis and Massachusetts Avenues. This will begin at 11:30 AM on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Homemade costumes will be eligible for first pick of the prizes by three judges. The parade will begin promptly at 1 PM and proceed up Davis Avenue to Legion Park where every participant will receive a bag of candy and a chance to win one of the many carefully selected prizes. A full report will follow in the next newsletter.

## **November Elections 2011**

Hope you will get out to vote in the general election on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. What a privilege we have to be able to elect our civil servants! Every vote does count, and we all need to have our voices heard.

As usual in November, we are also having an election of some twelve officers and board members of the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation for the 2012 year. This election will be held at the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you might be interested in serving on the board, please let us know by emailing us at [brightonheights@yahoo.com](mailto:brightonheights@yahoo.com) or by leaving a message on the answer line at 412-734-0233. We regularly have openings on the board, and we can always use help with the various committees too. So get in touch with us and come join the fun! Computer literacy facilitates communication, but it should not be a limiting factor for you if you don't use a computer. It's rewarding to know you are doing good things for the neighborhood.

## **Christmas Tree Light Up 2011**

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation will once again sponsor a Christmas Tree Light Up ceremony with Christmas caroling, candy, hot chocolate and Santa. It will be on Saturday evening, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Legion Park beginning at 6:30 PM.

Mary Angela Ogg and several classes from our new Northside Catholic School will lead the caroling, but all are invited to sing along. Beautiful weather would be preferable, but the lighting will take place even if it rains or snows. Come join us and welcome the Christmas season in Brighton Heights!

## **Time to Renew Memberships**

Check the month and year after your name on your newsletter mailing label to see if it is time for you to renew your membership in the Federation. We hesitate to remove names from the mailing list, but, in all fairness, we need to recoup the cost of the mailings.

Membership dues rates have remained stable for a couple years – it is a good bargain and a great way for you to keep in touch with what is going on in the neighborhood. You can even stretch that membership and get an even better deal by getting four years membership when you pay for three, and seven years when you pay for five.

## **What to do about Stink Bugs**

Stink bugs are generally found in gardens where they are attracted to fruits and vegetables. Stink bugs will find their way into homes and structures when fall evenings start to turn cold.

They acquired their name from their natural defense: they release a smell to repel their predators. This smell is the main reason they return year after year to any structure which is used as a hibernating den. If your home starts to harbor stink bugs it is best to get rid of them before the infestation gets out of control.

Stink bugs are hardy and can live a few years. Besides being annoying and smelly, they can actually do damage to produce and some people are allergic to them. They are attracted to light and warmth and can make their way into almost any structure.

If you have stink bugs active in your garden, there are several products you can use. One is called Permethrin which is very effective, but is not organic. If you're looking for a natural insecticide, try Safer Multi-purpose Insect Killer, Safer Brand Bioneem or Bonide Hot Pepper Wax.

Since the growing season is over you are most likely experiencing stink bugs entering your home or structure. There are a few home remedies that can be found online, but the best thing to do is call a qualified exterminator.

# Yard Debris Special Collection

The City will be collecting leaf and yard debris from all residents in a special collection on Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Yard debris should be placed at your normal collection site on Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>. All yard debris materials will be collected by city refuse / recycling crews and composted on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Bag Leaves for Collection:** Residents must bag leaves in paper bags only and put them out at your normal refuse collection site. Bags should not exceed 35 pounds. Leaves in plastic bags will not be accepted.

**Tree Branches and Bushes:** Cut, bundle and tie branches and bushes in lengths not exceeding five feet in length. Tree branch diameter should not exceed four inches.

Please note that City crews will not collect dirt, rocks, stones or cement. And yard debris left at the curb by contracted lawn care workers or independent contractors will not be collected by city crews. Yard debris not meeting the collection guidelines will not be collected by city crews.

If you have any questions please contact Environmental Services at 412-255-2631 or 412-255-2773. Pgh Bureau of Environmental Services

# BHCF Business Spotlight

We are happy to begin our local business feature with the Giant Eagle at 4110 Brighton Road. It has been our neighborhood grocery store for more than 52 years. Our seasoned residents can well remember the excitement generated when it opened in 1959.

This past month the store has undergone some major improvements, including updated shelving in the produce department. This allows more space and thus fewer outages. It also provides a larger and better selection of items. New items such as okra, oyster mushrooms, habeneria peppers, star fruit, coconut and papaya are now available. The organics have been expanded to more than 30 selections.

The pharmacy has also been remodeled and now offers a larger, more welcoming space. The counters have been lowered and the area enlarged. The larger shelving allows more variety of in-demand products.

The store, under the leadership of Bob Tamburi, has been very supportive of the Federation's activities over the years, but especially this past year. They have supplied candy for our Hallowe'en parades and Christmas Tree lightings. They have given us water for our cleanups and provided giveaway articles and water for our House Tour. We appreciate their support!

# Free Programs Offered at the Woods Run Library in November:

<p><b>Adults:</b>                  Book Discussion Groups: Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM and Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM                  Transmission: A Meditation for the New Age Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM                  Computer Classes: Individualized Instruction Saturdays at 10 AM (Call for an appointment.)                  Knitting Club: Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM                  Wise Walk: Mondays at 9:30 AM This program brought to you by the Allegheny County Library Association in partnership with AARP and the Highmark PALS (People Able to Lend Support) Program.</p>	<p><b>Teens:</b>                  Get Your Game On!: Wii, Thursdays at 4:30 PM</p> <p><b>School-Age:</b>                  School-Age Programs: Tuesdays at 4:30 PM</p> <p><b>Children:</b> Family Fun: Storytime Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM</p>
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For more program information, visit our website at <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/woodsrun/>  
 Help support and advocate for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Woods Run! Become a "Friend of the Woods Run Library." Meetings take place the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. For more information, give us a call at 412-761-3730 or stop in for a visit!

The Friends of the Woods Run Library is hosting a beer tasting fundraiser at Young Brothers Bar on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Contact the library for more details.

# Opportunities to Serve by Mayor Luke Ravenstahl



Dear Neighbors,

I'm proud to say that Pittsburgh has a strong tradition of neighbors-helping-neighbors. Just last year, close to a third of Pittsburgh's residents devoted 75.2 million hours of service, amounting to an approximate value of \$1.6 billion. At a time when budgets are tight, it's the dedicated support of citizens that keeps Pittsburgh 'America's Most Livable City.' Building on this belief, I launched serve PGH this past spring, an ambitious campaign to address our City's greatest needs through service and volunteerism.

I'm happy to announce that there are several opportunities for you to roll up your sleeves and volunteer this fall. Through *Love Your Block*, one of my serve PGH initiatives, 11 neighborhoods are currently engaging volunteers to work hand-in-hand with City departments to revitalize their blocks. Projects include community gardens, public art installation, veterans' memorial rehab, playground cleanups and vacant lot remediation. You are invited to the *Love Your Block* volunteer events and community celebrations that take place across the City.

For a complete calendar of activities, visit [pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock/getinvolved](http://pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock/getinvolved) In late October, I will launch Redd Up Zone, a serve PGH initiative to engage volunteers to clean streets and reduce blight. Check the serve PGH website soon to learn more about how to get involved.

Finally, it's important to support and encourage the great leaders that inspire us all. That is why I have launched Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's Citizen Service Award. It recognizes community leaders who have contributed exceptional levels of service toward the advancement of Pittsburgh communities. You can nominate yourself or other community members by filling out the online submission form at [www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/csa](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/csa)

For more information, email [servepgh@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:servepgh@city.pittsburgh.pa.us) or call 412-255-4765. There are opportunities for everybody to make our City a better place. Choose just one and you'll enrich the lives of your neighbors, as well as your own. Join me in serving our City today.  
Sincerely,  
Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

# Antrim Street Beautification Project

An amazing transformation took place on Antrim Street the weekend of September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, as 35 volunteers worked hard on those days to clean up their neighborhood. The project kicked off with a ceremony attended by Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Council President Darlene Harris and many workers from their offices.

As the KDKA-TV cameras rolled, Mayor Ravenstahl praised the efforts of Kelly Day in submitting the application for the grant, and for spearheading the work progress. Kelly thanked the Mayor and The Home Depot Foundation for the "Mayor's Love Your Block Program" grant and sponsors, Dunkin' Donuts and Giant Eagle, for providing food and refreshments for the workers both days. Pete Bellisario presented an oversize check to Kelly on behalf of the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation, matching the original \$500 grant with a like amount.

Along with Kelly, our Master Gardener, Susan Benn, coordinated the planting of a "Rain Garden" on one empty lot at the corner of Antrim and Richardson Streets. Kevin Quigley and the City's Department of Public Works cleared the land and Darlene Harris made some calls to get a backhoe, expertly operated by Allen Teague, to dig out the garden area. A Green-Up lot for the neighborhood on the opposite corner of Fleming and Antrim will be the next transformation planned on Antrim.

The local firemen helped to remove hanging shoes from the power lines, and a Duquesne Light bucket truck, operated by Terri, spent a couple hours on Sunday cutting a mass of vines from the power lines in front of an abandoned house. Sue Hartman and Kathy Miller from Emmanuel Christian Church came to help serve the lunch of fried chicken to the workers on Saturday.

Take a stroll down Antrim Street and see the changes. The best part of the entire project was seeing the people on that street come together, get to know one another and work hard to clean up the street. Upper and lower Antrim residents are now seeking solutions to slow the traffic and have an application in with TreeVitalizePittsburgh for a spring tree planting.

This project was made possible by Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's Love Your Block Program. Love Your Block is a partnership of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and the Home Depot Foundation to beautify Pittsburgh — block by block.

**Committee Approves Bill to Ban the 'r' Word in State Law**  
**Representative Jake Wheatley**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District**  
**Allegheny County**



The House Human Services Committee has unanimously reported out S.B. 458, which would rename the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of 1966 as the Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act. We all know that words matter. It's time we abandon the use of the term "retardation" in our state laws and use language that is both inclusive and accepted by the disabled community. I am pleased that progress is being made in this endeavor as S.B. 458 now moves to the full House for a vote. The companion to this bill, which I introduced, is H.B. 789. That bill would update other portions of state law with the term intellectual disability. It remains in committee, but I am optimistic that it will be reported out. Over the years, new terms have been developed to reflect a better understanding of the condition. Intellectual disability is the preferred term, so we should reflect that change in our official policy by using intellectual disability in place of mental retardation. If you have questions on this or any state-related concern, my office is at 412-471-7760 or <http://www.pahouse.com/wheatley>

**New Youth Policy Managers**  
**Mayor Luke Ravenstahl**



Dear Neighbors,

I'm pleased to announce that recently we've welcomed two new staff members to work in my Youth Policy Department: Olivia Benson as Youth Policy Manager, and Nick Martini as Deputy Youth Policy Manager. In their new roles, Olivia and Nick will continue to work on youth initiatives throughout the city while expanding and improving upon ways to attract and retain young people in Pittsburgh. The Youth Policy Department, in conjunction with our schools and community organizations, also works to ensure our students are 'Promise Ready' and, upon graduation from high school, have the opportunity to receive up to \$40,000 for college studies.

This year I've tasked Olivia and Nick to develop ways to better serve youth and young families in the City of Pittsburgh. In addition to working with the Mayor's Youth Council, the appointed members of the Propel Pittsburgh Commission and the Mayor's Youth Commission, the Youth Policy Department has set forth a series of goals and objectives to:

- Reduce youth and gang violence by developing leadership opportunities for young people in our communities.
- Partner with our schools and nonprofit organizations to maximize information about education and youth resources in Pittsburgh.
- Encourage young people to explore opportunities for innovation, home ownership and small business development.
- Retain young adults in Pittsburgh by highlighting the City's growth, educational and advancement opportunities.

I am pleased to have two new members in our Youth Policy Department, and I would like to thank all of you for welcoming Olivia and Nick. I hope that you will feel free to contact them with your ideas and suggestions for ways to continue to make Pittsburgh 'America's Most Livable City.'

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about Youth Policy in our City, please call 412-255-2258 or email [Olivia.Benson@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:Olivia.Benson@city.pittsburgh.pa.us) or [Nicholas.Martini@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:Nicholas.Martini@city.pittsburgh.pa.us)

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your cancelled check will be your receipt. Your membership renewal date will be reflected on your mailing label. For example, "12/11" means your membership expires in December of 2011.

**Next Membership Meeting is November 10th 7:00 at the John Morrow School Auditorium**

**This newsletter is printed for us by Allegheny General Hospital and we appreciate their generosity!**

Address Service Requested



**Brighton Heights Citizens Federation  
Box 99696 \* Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212**