



The Citizens Report

A bimonthly publication of the Brighton Heights Citizen's Federation

Volume 41 Issue 3 May/June 2012

President's Message *by Pete Bellisario*

New Flowers. New Houses. New Street Cleanliness. And More.

Hope you have been enjoying our nice weather and all the colors that come with spring. There are many articles that will be in this newsletter with much more information in the rest of the newsletter about the subjects that I will introduce in this report.

May 5th will be our flower planting date. We always ask for volunteers, young and those young at heart. We will plant at three corners of California and Termon Avenues. Last year the Federation took responsibility for the last flower bed at the intersection of Ohio River and Brighton Heights Boulevards. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy provides the plants and volunteers to plant in addition to our members. This year we have also added Antrim Street. Last summer, the Antrim Street group, under the leadership of Kelly Day and Jerome Jackson, received a grant from the Home Depot as part of the Mayor's "Love Your Block" Program. They requested to be included in the future plantings, and we were very, very pleased to agree. If you haven't been by the corner of Antrim and Fleming, you should check out what a small group of workers and volunteers can do -- a great job of improving their little neck of the woods.

Last year we sponsored a day at PNC Park and all went very well except for the final baseball score. The Board decided to give it another shot and we will again provide bus transportation to and from the game. The scheduled date is Sunday May 27th.

The 27th Ward Veterans Committee will honor all veterans with our annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 28th at Legion Park. It will begin at 10:00 AM sharp.

The annual Chocolate House Tour will be held on Sunday, June 10th and will feature houses on Fleming and Termon Avenues and Morrell Street. It will also feature a look at the first of the new houses on the Saint John's site. Our final spring activity for this busy time of year will be the Flea Market in Legion Park on Saturday, June 16th.

We also hope that you have been by the corner of McClure Avenue and Antrim Street. Thanks to the efforts of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, the three houses under construction are coming along just fine courtesy of the good weather. Steve Catranel Construction Company folks have been great, and the houses look fantastic. The deteriorating houses in that area that have been condemned by the appropriate city agencies are out for bid and will be torn down.

Many thanks to Tim Maloney, also known as the Dirt Doctor, for his initiative to seek volunteers who are willing to clean up their streets on a regular basis. He is heading up the "Adopt-a-Block" group and he already has some volunteers. You can find an article that has more details about his program and the City of Pittsburgh REDD-UP Zone program.

We have a request for someone to assume the newsletter editor position. Ron Lindow has been our editor for many years and has done a fantastic job. He has asked to be relieved because of the increase in his business workload. We publish five newsletters a year with many authors providing the articles. If you are interested or if you know somebody who might be interested please email us at: brightonheights@yahoo.com

Minutes of the BHCF General Membership Meeting of March 8, 2012

The meeting was brought to order at 7:05 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Minutes from the January 12, 2012 General Membership Meeting were accepted without changes.

Special Guests:

Pastor Brenda Gregg, Destiny of Faith Church (housed in the former Brighton McClure Presbyterian Church) absent. Jamie Albert substituted.

Destiny of Faith is a nondenominational Christian church that also operates Project Destiny as part of its outreach program. They focus on youth and families. The project operates an after-school program and a summer camp among others for adults as well. Parking issues are being worked on.

Steve Hawkins (architect for Antrim/McClure houses) absent. Greg from SGH Architects and Steve Catranel (Steve Catranel Construction) substituted.

All three houses are now under roof and are on schedule for completion in June or July 2012. Steve hopes to be involved in the next phase of housing on the Saint John's property.

Dan Keller – Salvation Army Northside Corporation Board member

The North Avenue building, which has been used for homeless programs is being repurposed for a youth center. The Salvation Army has budgeted \$2 to 3 million for this reconstruction. As a historic structure, the building plans will be attentive to community standards. The North Side Corporation is soliciting public input on what help youth and families need and a survey was distributed.

Report of Officers and Others:

Pete Bellisario, President:

The new soccer facility has started construction on Mairdale Street adjacent to Riverview Park.

Vice President's Report – Roy Johnston

Absent

Joan Bellisario, Treasurer's Report

Net Worth – As of March 8, 2012	Cash and Bank Accounts	Monument: \$1,736.65	Operating Account: \$28,229.54
State Grant Account: \$905.65	United Way Account: \$2,796.03	Total Cash and Bank Accounts: \$33,667.87	

Vince Pallus, Corresponding Secretary

Vince Pallus reported that he and Board member Kelly Day have been chosen for the Green Ambassadors and Apprentices Northside (GAAN) program sponsored by GTECH. This program will give \$1000 per participant for a neighborhood project(s).

Four of the five derelict houses across from the new construction on Antrim are condemned and the fifth has been cited in the first step for condemnation. All parties to this process are eager to get these demolished. A window of April to July has been established for such action due to asbestos issues.

Peggy Urzua, NSLC Board Report,

The Real Estate committee reported that they are appealing reassessments on 29 properties under control of the NSLC. They hope to complete acquisition of 3646 California Avenue in Brighton Heights between 2012 and 2014 in order to transfer title to BHCF.

The Education Committee reported that with the transition to Perry-Oliver High School there would be a total of 998 students with a class size average of 30. ROTC will move to Perry and culinary/cosmetology will stay in the Oliver building.

The next Owing Your Own Business workshop will be held March 27th at Riverview Presbyterian Church.

The Casino Housing Fund Committee has participated in the funding of the Saint John's site study. The meeting schedule for this Committee is available.

Joe Shields, Web Site –absent

A RFP will be released March 15th for a new design of our website. Appreciation was given to Art Kreisel who put together the current site after it was lost to hackers.

Minutes of the BHCF General Membership Meeting continued...

Donna Kramer, Crime and Safety,

A SWAT team responded to a commitment call near Brighton and Davis today.

The February shooting on Termon is still an ongoing homicide investigation.

There were three recent arrests for drug offenses.

The proper procedure for gaining access to the security cameras on California Avenue was clarified by Pete Bellisario.

At the May 10th general meeting we should have narcotics officers as guests for an update on current issues.

August 8th is this year's date for the NSPSC Appreciation Day for police, fire, EMS and school crossing guards held at Risen Lord Church. Volunteers to help are greatly appreciated.

Susan Benn, Flower Planting and Spring Cleanup

This year's April cleanup will be held April 21st at 8:30 AM and the spring flower planting will occur on May 5th.

This year' planting will include Ohio River Boulevard, Termon/California and Antrim Street.

Becky Spevack, Flea Market –absent

This year's flea market will be held June 16th at Legion Park. Spaces are \$10.

Pete Bellisario, Memorial Day –

This year's commemoration will be held May 28th at 10 AM at Legion Park. Following the ceremony, all are invited to the picnic held by Emmanuel Christian Church.

Old Business

Andy McClaren, Community Day –

This year' Community Day at PNC Park will be held May 27th. Tickets for the game against the Chicago Cubs are \$21. Bus transportation and postgame cookout are included. Deadline for tickets is May 1st.

John Belch, House Tour -

This year's Chocolate House Tour will be held on the NEW date, June 10th. The Morrell, California, Termon, Fleming area will be featured.

Money is still left from last year's Columbia Gas beautification grant. Outside improvements are eligible for 25% reimbursement up to \$100.

New Business

Tim Maloney, who runs the neighborhood Dirt Doctor firm has volunteered to run an "Adopt A Block" program for Brighton Heights. This would entail volunteers signing up to do regular litter cleanups of desired areas of the neighborhood.

The BHCF is investigating the costs of renting a storefront space at Brighton and Davis for the purpose of consolidating Federation business and establishing a physical presence in the neighborhood.

Pennsylvania State Representative Adam Ravenstahl reported that the No Texting While Driving law has gone into effect today.

A court date will be set with Magistrate Ravenstahl concerning the violations by New Hope Church in renting out their social hall for events.

The 50/50 raffle: The winner of \$30 was State Representative Adam Ravenstahl. He donated it to the Federation.

Approximately 30 persons attended. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, John Belch

Household Chemical Collection

The Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) and partners will host the first Household Chemical Collection of 2012 on Saturday, May 5. It will be from 9 AM to 1 PM in North Park at the North Park swimming pool parking lot. The fee is \$2 per gallon.

Individuals also can drop off automotive fluids, household cleaners, pesticides, paints and many other household chemicals. For more information, including a detailed list of acceptable and unacceptable items and other event dates and locations, please visit PRC's Zero Waster Pittsburgh website at www.zerowastepgh.org/ZW-hcw-events.html. Or contact Michael Stepaniak of PRC at 412-488-7452.

Also, volunteers are needed for this event. Please contact Michael Stepaniak if you are able to lend a hand. Volunteers do not handle chemicals and they get free disposal of up to 10 gallons of material.

Clean Up, Clean Up, Everybody Clean Up - (Definitely Not Limited to Barney Anymore)

As we look forward to another beautiful summer in Brighton Heights, we must consider how we intend to keep the neighborhood looking good after our initial clean-up day on April 21st. We are fortunate this year to have two programs in place that will do exactly that.

One of our neighbors, Tim Maloney, owner of The Dirt Doctor, Inc., asked if he could start an Adopt-A-Block program in the neighborhood. The purpose would be to organize individuals and organizations to keep sidewalks and green areas free of litter and debris throughout the year. We are looking for volunteers to clean-up one or more blocks on a monthly basis especially from March through November.

Along those same lines, the Mayor's office has recently established a REDD-UP Zone program to do just about the same thing. Fortunately, the two programs can work in tandem, given that they have a few differences, and YOU are the one who can make it all work!

To participate in the Adopt-A-Block program, you need only contact Tim Maloney at 412-726-0800 or dirtdoctim@msn.com. He will note what area you intend to protect and make arrangements for you to get the bags, gloves, et cetera. You can pick as small an area as you wish, just your block or whatever, and agree to keep it litter-free all summer.

To join the REDD-Up program, you must go to www.servepgh.pittsburghpa.gov and fill out and sign the application in which you agree to clean up at least a half mile of City streets a minimum of four times a year for the next two years. You will receive supplies including garbage bags, gloves and a supply kit which includes brooms, shovels, hedge clippers, et cetera. This would work well for larger groups. Two signs will be provided from the City in the work area to publicize the individuals or groups who have volunteered for that program, so businesses and individuals can get some positive publicity.

We have had volunteers for both programs already. For example, the Woods Run Monday Walking Group has signed up to do the Redd-Up Zone program in the area of Woods Run and Lecky Avenues. Others have contacted Tim to sign up for Adopt-A-Block.

You don't even have to pick your own block for either program! Volunteers would pick up trash and other debris from sidewalks, curbs and yards next to sidewalks. Volunteers could be neighbors, families, or businesses. They would separate trash from recyclables. Both groups will have to keep a list of their volunteers and when they work.

This will certainly improve the beauty and livability of the Brighton Heights neighborhood. Thank you for considering to help keep our neighborhood clean!

LEAP Crew Cleans Up in Brighton Heights

Our neighbor, Josh Nard, program coordinator for the Student Conservation Association of the Three Rivers Regional Office has worked to help our neighborhood benefit from a City program for young people. LEAP (Leadership in the Environment Advancement Program) crews are made up of city residents, 14 to 18 years old who participate in an out-of-school, part-time employment program.

As part of their job, LEAP crew members:

- Perform conservation work in city parks and neighborhoods
- Participate in workforce development, environmental education activities, outdoor recreation and career pathway awareness activities
- During their second year, plan and execute their own Community Action Project (CAP.)



Two adult crew leaders and five teenaged crew members contributed 21 hours of work to the flower beds along Route 65 and Brighton Heights Boulevard on Saturday, March 24th. They collected three 35-gallon bags of organic waste and six 35-gallon bags of litter. The crew members are part of a program called the LEAP, a local Pittsburgh program of the Student Conservation Association (SCA.)

We owe many thanks to Josh and his crew members Miss Isha Muzhimu, Mr. Derrick Robinson, Mr. Jordan Wilson, Mr. Aaron Keith Young (crew leader), Mr. Annunaqi Withrow-Davis and Miss Lakwaya Robinson.

Clean Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl



Dear Neighbors,

The days are growing warmer and longer, and I'm excited to welcome this year's cleaning and greening season. As you begin to Redd-Up your neighborhood, Green-Up empty lots and Love Your Blocks, I want you to know that your hard work and dedication not only improves the beauty of your neighborhood, but also helps keep your family and neighbors safe.

By transforming vacant lots into green spaces, community gardens and other creative community assets, your work helps reduce crime and improve residents' neighborhood pride. Blighted properties attract illegal and dangerous activity, and it's important that we work together to keep such activity out of our neighborhoods.

More blighted properties will be demolished this spring, creating opportunities for attractive, useful green spaces. As community members, I encourage you to take charge of these areas through City programs like Green Up, Love Your Block, the Sideyard Sale Program and the Garden Waiver Program. Businesses are reminded to take advantage of the Storefront Renovation Program and the Taking Care of Business program. By aggressively addressing blighted properties through community-driven development, you each take an active role in beautifying your neighborhood and improving its public safety.

Fighting blight is one way to keep our neighborhoods safe. As Mayor, I continue to take great measures across our City to improve public safety, including cracking down on nuisance properties, providing public safety officials with advanced training, and dedicating more than \$3 million to demolition this year. As always, the safety of Pittsburgh's residents and businesses remains a high priority.

Residents are reminded to report suspicious activity, review crime alerts or join a block watch by visiting my Community Safety Website at communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov

Keeping our City clean, safe and green is up to each of us. By working together, we can continue to strengthen our neighborhoods and keep Pittsburgh "America's Most Livable City."

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl

Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

Little Sisters of the Poor Home Recognized

Congratulations to our neighbor, Little Sister of the Poor! According to an article in the April 6th *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *US News and World Report* used national standards last month to name the home one of the best in the country. It was among 39 nursing home facilities of more than 15,500 reviewed to receive five-star ratings four quarters in a row by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in health inspections, nurse staffing and quality of care.

Sister Judith Meredith, the home administrator, said the facility on Benton Avenue, which accepts only financially needy people over the age of 60, stands out because it has developed its own standards for care. The sisters and the employees are very conscientious about making the nursing home feel like home. Now the world knows what we have known for many years: it is indeed a special place.

Memorial Day Ceremony 2012



The 27th Ward Veterans Committee, with representation from American Legion Post #681, Brightwood Civic Group and Brighton Heights Citizens Federation, will honor all veterans with their annual Memorial Day ceremony. The date is Monday, May 28th at Legion Park beginning at 10:00 AM sharp. We are pleased that the Oliver High School JROTC will be participating as our honor guard. With the loss of the Oliver High School band, we will introduce the Perry Traditional Academy band to our neighborhood celebration. Members will play trumpets during TAPS and drums during parts of the program.

We need your help in identifying presently serving military members and veterans from our neighborhoods. You can report the names to us at the following email address: brightonheights@yahoo.com. If you don't have internet access, please call (412) 734-0233 and leave a message.

After the ceremony, all will be invited to the picnic area at Riverview Manor for our traditional Memorial Day picnic. Many thanks to Emmanuel Christian Church members and Riverview Manor residents who will help make this a grand day for all.

Sign up for the Summer Reading Program at the Woods Run Library to read for fun and prizes this summer!

Fun for the whole family!

Summer Reading Kickoff Party! Thursday, June 14th - 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Free ice cream cones, a performance by Bob the Juggler, crafts and activities for all ages!

Summer Reading Finale Party! Thursday, August 9th - 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Wild World of Animals will bring real wild animals to the library, plus we'll have free refreshments and activities!

For Children, Baby and Me! Fridays, June 15th to July 13th - 10:30 AM. Babies ages 0 to 18 months and their grownups will be exposed to language, books and playful activities in a positive and supportive atmosphere. We invite you to come sing, clap, bounce and listen to nursery rhymes and stories!

Terrific Tales for Toddlers! Thursdays, June 7th to August 30th - 10:30 AM (Not on August 9th) Get up and get moving at the library with stories, songs and silly fun that encourages your toddler's language skills! Children ages 18 to 36 months and their grownups are encouraged to become actively involved in the stories and to participate in activities with their children.

Pre-K Program: Storytime! Thursdays, June 7th to August 30th - 11:30 AM (Not on August 9th). Share the fun of reading with your children ages 3 to 5 years! Children and their parents or caregivers will explore stories and activities to encourage children along a life long path of reading and learning.

Imagination Builders: LEGO Club! Thursdays, June 21st to August 30th - 4:00 PM (Not on August 9th) Children and caregivers are invited to use their imagination to build structures using a variety of building toys. Building blocks are more than fun toys. They are valuable educational and creative tools.

Dog Tales! Saturday, June 30th and July 28th - 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM. A representative from Therapy Dog International will be in the library with a certified therapy dog to help children gain confidence in their reading abilities and ease the stress of reading out loud. Readers of all ages and non-readers with a parent are welcome to stop by and share their favorite book with Gus!

For Teens - Fusion: Teen Traffic @ Twilight Every Tuesday - 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. You never know what can happen on a Tuesday. Stop traffic, pull up in a parking spot and jump out for Teen Fusion! Now is your chance to escape from the BORING and join in on the FUN action that is waiting for you!

"Lights, Camera, ACTION!" Saturday, July 14th - 1:00 PM. Grab a friend, pick a costume, strike a pose! Satisfy your creative spirit in all sorts of costumes and poses. Find you and your friends on the "Wall of Night Fame" and vote for best photo op. Smile, growl, laugh and glare your way to stardom.

"Vampires and Werewolves Hunt" Saturday, August 11th - 1:00 PM. Go on a hunt to track down the vampires and werewolves that are hiding in your neighborhood. Quietly waiting for the full moon, these dangerous creatures of the nighttime need to be captured before they take over your neighborhood! Stalk down the clues and fight to the end! Save the neighborhood and "Own the Night!" You'll be sure to find a reward for your hard-earned monster hunt!

Sign up for the Summer Reading Program continued...

For Adults

Wise Walk Every Monday | 9:30 AM. Wise Walk is a walking program geared toward adults 50+. Participants will receive a pedometer and a T-shirt and will record the number of steps they take each week. We will meet at the library every Monday at 9:30 AM to walk the neighborhood. During inclement weather we will walk inside. This program is brought to you by the Allegheny County Library Association in partnership with AARP and the Highmark PALS (People Able to Lend Support) program.

Book Discussions Saturday, June 2nd, July 7th and August 4th - 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. and Tuesday, June 12th, July 10th and August 14th - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Do you love to read? Do you wish you had someone to talk to about the books you read? If the answer is Yes to either of these questions, then perhaps it's time to join a book discussion group. Come to the Library and join a book discussion group for adults today!

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Woods Run

1201 Woods Run Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/woodsrun/>

Join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/clpwoodsrun](https://www.facebook.com/clpwoodsrun) or contact us at 412.761.3730 to learn more about free programs for all ages at your library.

Columbia Gas Grant

With summer fast approaching, flower gardens will again be dressing up our streets in Brighton Heights. If you are going to purchase those flowers and trees to help beautify our neighborhood, don't forget to take some Before and After pictures and submit those receipts for a 25% reimbursement (up to \$100.)

We still have some of that grant money available, so use that green thumb, and get some green back! Any improvement you make to the outside of your house that is visible from the street is eligible for this grant

May General Membership Meeting

Mark your calendar and join us for the May General Membership Meeting of the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation on Thursday, May 10, 2012. We will once again be meeting at the Pittsburgh Morrow auditorium on the corner of Davis and Fleming Avenues at 7 PM.

Columbia Gas representatives will be on hand to make another presentation to the Federation.

Remember, between readings of the Citizens Report, updated information about Brighton Heights can be viewed online at www.brightonheights.org ! Scattered throughout the web site are many places to click on to send an e-mail with your comments, criticisms, suggestions and advice. There is even a place to submit your own article to the web site and/or this newsletter. Come on – join in!

Help Filing Federal Income Tax
State Senator
Wayne D. Fontana, 42nd Senatorial District



House Bill 934 (HB 934), the Voter ID bill, passed the General Assembly and was signed into law by Governor Corbett on March 20th. As a result, this November every voter will be required to show a valid form of identification in order to vote. This law does not affect the April 24th primary. If you don't have a valid form of identification, the state will provide one to you at no cost.

To obtain a valid ID, you need to visit a PennDOT Driver License Center with the following paperwork:

- PennDOT Oath/Affirmation Voter ID form
- PennDOT DL-54A form (\$13.50 fee will be waived with the Oath/Affirmation form)
- Social Security card
- One of the following:
 - Birth Certificate with a raised seal, Valid U.S. Passport, Certificate of U.S. Citizenship, or Certificate of Naturalization
 - Two proofs of residency, such as a lease agreement, current utility bills, mortgage documents, W-2 form, tax records, bank statements and/or credit card bills. College students may also use room assignment paperwork and one bill with their dorm room address on it.

The following are acceptable forms of identification that will be accepted in order to vote:

- ID issued by the United States government that includes your name, a photograph and an expiration date that is not expired
- U.S. military ID – active duty and retired military (a military or veteran's ID must designate an expiration date or designate that the expiration date is indefinite.) Military dependents' ID must contain an expiration date
- ID issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that includes your name, a photograph and an expiration date that is not expired
- ID issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) that is not more than 12 months past the expiration date
- For individuals who have a religious objection to being photographed: valid-without-photo driver's license or a valid-without-photo ID card issued by PennDOT
- Employee ID issued by a municipality of Pennsylvania that includes your name, a photograph and an expiration date that is not expired
- ID issued by an accredited Pennsylvania public or private institution of higher learning that includes your name, a photograph and an expiration date that is not expired
- ID issued by a Pennsylvania care facility that includes your name, a photograph and an expiration date that is not expired

If you plan to file an absentee ballot, you will need one of the following proofs of identification with your application:

- Driver's license number
- Last four numbers of your Social Security number (for an individual who doesn't have a current valid driver's license)
- For individuals who have a religious objection to being photographed: photocopy of a valid-without-photo driver's license or a valid-without-photo ID card ; or
- Photocopy of one of the acceptable forms of ID under the new law.

If you need any assistance in obtaining a valid ID, if you cannot locate your Social Security card or birth certificate or need the Oath/Affirmation and DL-54A forms, please contact one of my district offices and my staff and I will gladly assist you.

Senator Wayne D. Fontana
www.senatorfontana.com

2012 Brighton Heights Flea Market

Start cleaning out the cupboards and get ready to make some cash. The Federation will be sponsoring the third annual BHCF Flea Market in Legion Park on Saturday, June 16th from 9 AM to 2 PM. A ten by ten foot space is only \$10 for the day. Vendors and crafters are welcome, too. Just fill out the reservation form below and submit it with your check to reserve a space.

Or go to www.brightonheights.org and click on "B.H.Store on the left side of the home page. You're welcome to use PayPal or a credit card to purchase flea market spaces and other things online at the "B.H.Store"

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____
E-mail address: _____
Number of spaces: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** _____
Return this form with \$10 per space wanted to:
2012 Flea Market
Brighton Heights Citizens Federation
PO Box 99696
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
Checks only — no cash — or go online to
www.brightonheights.org and pay with PayPal or a credit card.

A Brighter Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Green Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl



Dear Neighbors,

Spring is coming, and Pittsburgh is blooming greener than ever. Though it can be hard to stay motivated through the winter, we have worked on finding greener ways to improve the way we run our City.

Over the last few months, we have:

Upgraded 3700 business district streetlights to brighter, cleaner, cost-efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlights - an improvement that is anticipated to reduce the City's energy usage by more than 60 percent and save taxpayers approximately \$110,000 per year

Begun the development of "Green Central," a centralized space where residents and City employees will have easy access to information related to everything green

Purchased new Compressed Natural Gas (CnG) waste haulers, set to run quieter, cleaner and more efficiently than ever on trash day

And assisted with the weatherization of 70 homes for City residents

And they are just a few recent accomplishments.

There are many projects currently in the works that will keep Pittsburgh as a leader in sustainability, including increasing our recycling program and development of the Civic LEAF Academy.

If you would like more green-related information, please contact the City's Sustainability Coordinator at 412-255-2254. I also encourage you to sign up for an electronic copy of the Green Scene, the Office of Sustainability and Energy Efficiency's new newsletter that provides valuable resources and information about Pittsburgh's push toward a greener future. Go to pittsburghpa.gov/green and click on "Sign up for email updates" to subscribe to the Green Scene.

Creating a sustainable City is a collaborative effort that balances protection, preservation, maintenance and innovation. I am proud that Pittsburgh provides a great quality of life for our residents, and I look forward to working with residents, as well as the public and private sectors, to ensure a green, sustainable, most livable future for our City.

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation Flower Planting

May 5, 2012

We are happy to welcome spring again, and you know what that means – flower planting! Bring your garden gloves and knee pads if you like, and join us for the annual spring flower planting. It will be on Saturday, May 5th at 9 AM on the corners of California and Termon Avenues. We like to have the gardens in before the house tour which is on Sunday, June 10th this year, so the gardens should be flourishing by then!

We will also be working on the Conservancy garden down by Ohio River Boulevard and the Antrim Street Beautification Project water garden.

Volunteers are needed to help with the planting. Since our neighborhood flower garden is no longer funded by the City of Pittsburgh and only the Boulevard flowers are supplied by the West Penn Conservancy, donations for this project are welcome.

BHCF Flower Planting
Saturday May 5, 2012

Or go to www.brightonheights.org and click on “B.H.Store” on the left side of the home page. You’re welcome to use PayPal or a credit card to purchase flea market spaces and other things online at the “B.H.Store”

If you would be able to help with the planting on that day, return this form, call our answer line at 412-734-0233 or email us at brightonheights@yahoo.com

Or just show up with your digging outfit on!
Name: _____
Phone: _____

Donation for purchase of flowers: \$ _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Make Checks payable to: Brighton Heights Citizens Federation

And mail to:

BHCF Flower Planting

PO Box 99696

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Please do not send cash.

Soccer Field Update

If you haven’t been on Mairdale Street at the end of Woods Run Avenue for a while, you may be surprised to see that construction has finally begun on the new soccer field adjacent to Riverview Park. This is great news for soccer players and friends and family who have patiently waited for years for a first class field.

Phase 1 of the construction of the field is to be completed by mid-August 2012. The contractor has brought in numerous loads of dirt and other materials to compact the site. All of this is in preparation for the installation of the artificial turf (phase 2.) There are monitoring plates embedded to ensure that the field has settled prior to installing the surface. If all goes well, the artificial surface will be installed in early spring 2013.

There will be a quarter-mile walking track around the site. For those who are concerned about environmental issues, both the state DEP and federal EPA have issued permits for this project.

Pittsburgh Museums – Closer than you think...

Sure we've all been to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History at one time or another. And yes, the dinosaurs are cool. But did you know that living here in Brighton Heights you are six miles or less from twelve museums? It's a fact! Not all of them are what people think of when they hear museum.

Like Bicycle Heaven, 2 ½ miles away in the Casey Industrial Park. Craig Morrow has created the world's largest bicycle museum and shop displaying over 1,500 bikes and over 90,000 parts and accessories. A tour of this Pittsburgh jewel cost only whatever you care to donate. Right off the River Bike Trail. Peddle on down!

Or remember playing Pinball? There are four Pinball museums in the country. The largest and undoubtedly the most fun is five miles away in West View. "Pinball Perfection!" Located inside the historic "Horse Shoe Bend" on route 19 north. Curators Dan Hosek and Todd Umstott deliver a hands on exciting destination for every level of arcade game player. They open what they call the "Players Club and Museum" Friday nights from seven to eleven and again Saturdays from noon to five. Over 200 pinball machines, bowling machines, shooting gallery games and classic video games are all there for your enjoyment. Quite often there is a live local band rocking while you're playing the silver ball. All the games run free, just one very low price at the door; bring the family!

For more fun try visiting these other wonderful nearby museum locations:

Bicycle Heaven – World's Largest Bicycle Museum and Shop - www.bicycleheaven.org

Pinball Perfection Museum and Players Club – Largest of four in the country – www.pinballperfection.com

The Bernhof Museum - fascinating automatic musical instruments - <http://www.bayernhofmuseum.com/>

Mattress Factory Museum - www.mattress.org

Photo Antiquities – Museum of Photographic History - www.photoantiquities.org

Frick Car and Carriage Museum - www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/start/venues/car_museum.php

Andy Warhol Museum - www.warhol.org

Children's Museum - www.pittsburghkids.org

Carnegie Museum of Art – www.cmoa.org

Carnegie Museum of Natural History - www.carnegiemnh.org

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum - www.soldiersandsailorshall.org

Frick Art Museum - www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/start/venues/art_museum.php

So You Think You Want a Dog

Part II

Our guest columnist this issue is friend and neighbor Lillian Akin, DPDT - KA, CBCC-KA, a certified dog trainer and certified dog behavior counselor who lives with her three dogs in Brighton Heights.

Now that you have decided that a dog would be a nice addition to your life, where should you go to get a dog? Absolutely stay away from pet stores. Most pet stores get their dogs from commercial breeders (puppy mills) or irresponsible breeders who simply breed their dogs for the breed and not for temperament and health. Most puppies from pet stores will have health problems as they age and tend not to be adequately socialized, not are their parents' temperaments screened.

It would probably surprise you to know that most shelters have pure bred dogs. And, for every breed of dog there is, there are rescue groups who rescue pure bred dogs. Sometimes rescue groups have puppies. These are excellent sources for dogs. If you absolutely have to have a pure bred puppy, do not purchase a puppy from the internet and have it shipped to you. You need to go see the breeder and where the puppies live. Puppies should be raised inside the house (not in the basement) to be adequately socialized to living in a house. Mom should be friendly and the place should be clean. The breeder should screen for genetic defects. Puppies should be handled and socialized. The first time the pup leaves the breeder's house should not be when you purchase the pup. They should have been started on house training and basic training. A good breeder resource is the Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association: <http://wpka-inc.org/> Please do your research before you purchase a puppy, whether it be from a breeder or a shelter or rescue group. That way, you are more likely to have a long term positive relationship with your furry friend.

Our next article will deal with leashing your dog once you have one.

