



# BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 45  
ISSUE 2

## CITIZENS REPORT

March 2016

### A Message from Mayor William Peduto

Happy New Year, Brighton Heights! We are very excited this year to celebrate the Bicentennial of Pittsburgh's incorporation as a City in 1816. Every Pittsburgher is invited to celebrate in this historic occasion. Please visit <http://pittsburghpa.gov/mayor/200-PGH/index.html> for more information on events and how to get involved!



The first half of the winter was mild, but there is finally snow on the horizon for January and February. Check out the City's online Snow Resource Center at <http://pittsburghpa.gov/snow> to find information on the latest winter weather happenings. The Snow Resource Center is your hub for staying up to date on the current winter storm level, accessing the Snow Plow Tracker that debuted last year, and volunteering for the Snow Angels program to help seniors in your neighborhood.

The City is fortunate to have a 25-year FBI veteran and former Pittsburgh Paramedic returning to Pittsburgh as our newest Public Safety Director. Wendell Hissrich has spent the past quarter century at the FBI overseeing joint law enforcement services with public service agencies throughout the nation. Director Hissrich started his public safety career in Pittsburgh as a paramedic and crew chief for 5 years. He is also a life member of the Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Department.

The Department of City Planning recently launched their new Adopt-A-Lot program, which creates a clear process to license or lease City-owned land for garden projects. If you are interested in adopting a City lot, please visit <http://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/adoptalot> or contact the City's Open Space Specialist, Shelly Danko+Day, at **412-255-2200** for more information.

**Next General  
Membership  
Meeting  
Thursday  
March 10, 2016  
7:00 PM  
Morrow  
Auditorium**

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# President's Report

Vince Pallus

**Spring is just around the corner and all of our activities will start to begin. We hold our annual cleanup as well as prep day and plant day for all of our gardens. Please keep an eye out for the exact date and times.**

As many of you already know, our board consists of all volunteers from the neighborhood. We do not have any paid staff. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication from our board members, committee chairs and volunteers to plan and make all of the activities in the neighborhood continue to be successful. Here is what we are in need of: VOLUNTEERS! We need volunteers from our neighborhood to participate in our activities throughout the neighborhood. We need help in activities such as cleanup day, garden prep/planting day and maintenance throughout the neighborhood. Any help is welcomed and appreciated. If you can't do manual labor then come and help organize or sign in the volunteers. We have many tasks that we need help with. Please consider volunteering

this year, even if it is just an hour or two. Believe me, any help is appreciated and welcomed. Feel free to contact the federation should you have any questions or would like to volunteer. If we all work together, we can keep Brighton Heights looking great and all of our activities a success.

**I hope to see you all at our next General Membership meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at Pittsburgh Morrow Auditorium.**

## VOLUNTEER



## From Darlene Harris

**It seems like these days our neighborhoods don't feel as safe as they used to be. I have often heard from you as well as others throughout the Northside that we need more police on the streets. We need faster response times, a bolder stand against drugs in our communities, and a more proactive approach to ensuring residents' safety. We have seen an uptick in violent crime over the past few years and I believe this can be attributed to low staffing levels. Although the City has budgeted for over 900 officers, we only have 842 officers on staff and were down to a low of 803 before December. Many are choosing to retire or take positions in nearby suburbs where salaries are higher and conditions are not as taxing.**

I hosted a televised post agenda meeting last summer to address this problem, and to come up with an action plan

to restore staffing levels. This year, the Administration has agreed to increase our training capacity and take on three new classes of recruits, rather than the usual one. I am also working with the Administration and my colleagues on Council to secure a new training facility for all public safety bureaus to improve recruitment, training, and retention.

We must take a stand against crime and work with our police to stem the tide of violence within our communities. If you see something, please do not hesitate to say something by getting in touch with Zone 1. Together we can make our streets safer for everyone.

**As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact my office at 412.255.2135 or online at <http://pittsburghpa.gov/district1/feedback>.**

## Do You Have a New Neighbor?

If so, let us know, BHCF will give them a one year free membership and send them a newsletter for a year. And if you would like to write something about Brighton Heights, please feel free to send your article to:

BHCF Newsletter  
3629 California Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Or E-Mail it to Editor, Dave Lebec  
submissions@brightonheights.org

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

## Newsletter Committee:

Editor: Dave Lebec  
Copy Editor: Erin Marie Yourd  
Reporter: Joan Bellisario  
Distribution: Irene Jakubowski, Gert Long and Tom Kaylor

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the membership of the board.

## BHCF Board of Directors:

### Officers

President: Vince Pallus  
Vice President: Brendan Schubert  
Treasurer: Suzanne Smolin  
Corresponding Sec: Brendan Delaney  
Recording Secretary: John Belch

### Directors

Janice Johns Engelman, Bill Goodrich, Jack Hunt, M. Kate Kelley, Donna Kramer, Dave Lebec, Gert Long, Tim Maloney, Megan Miller, John Norman, Helen Wehner, Jeff Worsinger

## The United Way #188

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 children's activities such as the Halloween Parade.

Any member making a United Way donation receives free membership in the Federation. Usually paperwork does not catch up to us until the year after the donation.

## Membership Renewal

Check the date after your name on your mailing label and make sure your membership is up to date. If it is not, please renew your membership now, either by sending in a renewal with the form on the back of the newsletter, or by going to our website online and renewing it by PayPal.

BHCF Information List	
BHCF Answer Line:	412-734-0233
BHCF FAX:	412-734-0234
E-Mail:	bhcf@brightonheights.org
Web Site:	www.brightonheights.org
ALCOSAN (odor control)	412-766-9445
Allegheny Co Health Dept	412-578-8390
Animal Control	412-255-2036 (before 3 p.m.) 412-255-2935 (after 3 p.m.)
Building Inspection	412-255-2176
Building Permits:	412-255-2175
Burned Out Street Light	412-255-5483
City Council Office	412-255-2142
City Council Rep for BH	412-255-2135
City Planning	412-255-2200
Emergency	911
Environmental Services	412-255-2780
Graffiti in the neighborhood You are a direct victim Graffiti Busters (will remove it) Graffiti Watch	311 911 412-255-2872 412-255-2272
Litter Hot Line (PA State)	888-548-8372
Mayor's Office	412-255-2626
Mayor's Response Line	311
Organized Crime, Narcotics, and Intelligence Division (ONI)	412-665-4300
Parking Authority	412-560-7275
Pittsburgh School Police Police - Zone 1	412-622-3520 412-323-7201
Public Works	412-255-2790
Refuse/Recycling	412-255-2773

## From Donna Kramer

**I want to wish Police Officer Kim Stanley good luck as she leaves Zone1 and moves to Zone 5. We shall miss her. She has been a police officer for 21 years and has done an excellent job.**

Please remember to keep your eyes and ears open and report to 911 any suspicious person, vehicle or activity you may see in your neighborhood. Also keep in mind that you can report any Commercial truck parked in a residential neighborhood after 7 p.m. They are not allowed to park there from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. This is a city ordinance and it is being enforced.

Thank you all who volunteered for the Zone 1 Appreciation Day. I appreciate every one of you. I have retired from doing the Appreciation Day as of November 2015.

## Nextdoor Pittsburgh

Have you joined our online neighborhood? Nextdoor is a private community network that let's you meet and coordinate with neighbors, the Mayor of Pittsburgh, and other community resources. Check out how Brighton Heights and its members are using Nextdoor to create volunteer engagement and change in the neighborhood on our website at [brightonheights.org](http://brightonheights.org)

## Interested in sharing a story with your community?

Submit your story in less than 250 words using the submission link on the [brightonheights.org](http://brightonheights.org) homepage.

## Newsletter Submissions Deadline

This is a reminder that the deadline for your entry to the Brighton Heights Newsletter is approaching. Please submit your article to me as an attachment no later than April 1. Thank you for your cooperation.

[Dave Lebec](#) | Editor | [submissions@brightonheights.org](mailto:submissions@brightonheights.org)

## Go Green by getting your newsletter by email

Email newsletters contain links to related stories, additional stories not included in the printed copy and helps the federation put more of our funding to local initiatives.

## Neighborhood Crime Information

If any member of the Brighton Heights Citizen's Federation would like specific information regarding the criminal activity in or neighborhood, you have two sources at your disposal:

- You are invited to attend regular meetings at the Northside Public Safety Council held the first Thursday of each month. They are held at the Manchester Citizen's Corporation Building located 1319 Allegheny Avenue. You may also obtain this information by logging onto the Police website at <http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov/>. The next meeting will be held in March.

- You are invited to attend the Federation general membership meetings every second Thursday usually located in the auditorium of John Morrow School. Police officers from Zone 1 provide a comprehensive list of every crime that occurs within our neighborhood. The next scheduled meeting will also be held in March.

**The best way to prevent crime in our neighborhood is to become involved.**

# 2016 CALENDAR

JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	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 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Jan. 1 .....New Year's Day  
 Jan. 7 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Jan. 14 .....General Membership Meeting  
 Jan. 18 ..... Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	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					

Feb. 2 ..... Groundhog Day  
 Feb. 4 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Feb. 14 ..... Valentine's Day  
 Feb. 15 .....President's Day

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Mar. 3 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Mar. 10 .....General Membership Meeting  
 Mar. 17 ..... St. Patrick's Day  
 Mar. 27 .....Easter Sunday

APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Apr. 7 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Apr. 16 .....Free 35-Gal. Recycling Bins  
 Apr. 23 ..... Earth Day Clean-up & Festival

MAY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	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					

May 5 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 May 8 ..... Mother's Day  
 May 12 .....General Membership Meeting  
 May 14 ..... Garden Prep Day  
 May 21 ..... Spring Flower Planting  
 May 27 ..... Vinnie Trail Clean-up  
 May 27 ..... Flag Planting Highwood Cem.  
 May 30 ..... Memorial Day

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Jun. 2 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Jun. 4 ..... St. John's Clean-up  
 Jun. 4 ..... Heritage Day  
 Jun. 19 ..... Father's Day

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Jul. 4 ..... Independence Day  
 Jul. 7 ..... Board of Directors Picnic  
 \* NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING \*

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	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			

Aug. 4 ..... Board of Directors Meeting

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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Sep. 1 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Sep. 5 ..... Labor Day  
 Sep. 8 .....General Membership Meeting

OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

Oct. 6 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Oct. 10 ..... Columbus Day  
 Oct. 22 ..... Fall Clean-up  
 Oct. 29 ..... Halloween Parade  
 Oct. 31 .....Halloween

NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	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			

Nov. 3 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Nov. 8 ..... National Election  
 Nov. 10 . Gen. Membership Meeting/Election  
 Nov. 11 ..... Veteran's Day  
 Nov. 24 .....Thanksgiving

DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	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

Dec. 1 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Dec. 3 ..... Bright the Night with Santa  
 Dec. 24 ..... Christmas Eve  
 Dec. 25 ..... Christmas  
 Dec. 31 ..... New Year's Eve

Thanks to Joan Bellisario, we have a new activities calendar for 2016. We apologize for missing the January newsletter edition.  
 If you have any events that you would like to include on 2017 calendar, please send them to us at the end of this year.

# MINUTES

## Review of Previous General Membership Meeting

### January 14, 2016

The meeting was brought to order at 7:10 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Minutes from the November 12, 2015 General Membership meeting were approved without corrections.

### Special Guests

PWSA – Brendan Schubert, Itha Cao, Katherine Camp

Representatives from PWSA gave a presentation on the importance of storm water management and what the Authority is planning to do to mitigate it using green infrastructure. The PWSA has awarded the BHCF a \$4,000 grant to fund the first phase of a McClure-Woods Run Greenway project.

### Council Person Darlene Harris — Jeff Martin

Jeff attended in the Councilperson's absence and answered resident questions. He distributed a new directory with contact info for city, county and state needs.

### Mayor's Office of Community Affairs — Sally Stadelman

Sally reported on the passage of the rental registration legislation. She distributed information on a new "one stop shop" assistance initiative for service members, veterans and their families called PA Serves.

### Report of Officers and Others:

#### President's Report — Vince Pallus

Vince reported that there is a new coordinator for the NSLC-AGH Partnership and her name is Alana Currington. The annual AGH Christmas Party is 12/19 and children of the neighborhood who could benefit from this event are being sought. He congratulated Kate Kelly on all the hard work and success of the Kaboom playground project. He is working on the contract for use of city neighborhood needs money provided by our councilperson. He also thanked VP Kelly Day and Board member Tom Kaylor for their years of service as they have decided not to rerun as Directors.

#### Vice President — Brendan Schubert

Brendan reported on the schedule for the West Carson street reconstruction and about the Buhl \$10K grant process. The application is completed and the grant will be used to add additional security cameras for the neighborhood. He will also be in charge of organizing and streamlining the BHCF's committees.

#### Corresponding Secretary — Brendan Delaney

Brendan was welcomed as the new secretary and had no report at this time.

### Treasurer's Report — Suzanne Smolin

Net Worth Report – As of 1/10/2016

<i>Assets — Cash and Bank Accounts</i>	
Monument	1,637.63
Operating Account	1,074.81
SSB OP Acct	14,282.07
State Grant Account	913.59
United Way	1,524.22
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 19,432.32</b>

The Treasurer's report was approved. Suzanne reported that these totals include the storm-water grant from PWSA and a donation from the City. She thanked all who contributed to increased United Way donations and reminded members that dues are due.

### NSLC — Vince Pallus and John Belch

Vince reported that the Light of Life mission's North Avenue location will be moving to both its Ridge Avenue building as well as new construction on Madison Avenue. PA Resource Council is sponsoring an anti-litter and recycling program, which will extend across the North Side. Renewal of the AGH/NSLC partnership agreement is ongoing and anyone looking to have input should contact Vince.

### Neighborhood Safety Committee — Donna Kramer

Donna reported that businesses who have suspected contact with stolen property should contact Zone 1 Burglary at 412-323-7800. A new session of the Citizens Police Academy will start on February 2 and run for 15 weeks. The new Public Safety Director is Wendell Hissrich and will be invited to

a future meeting. New block watch signs are available at the BHCF office. She also asked for a volunteer to represent BHCF at the NSPC meetings as she is stepping down from that organization. She reminded residents to report commercial vehicles parked overnight in residential areas as that is against city ordinance.

Zone 1 Detective Amy Mattia was present and answered member questions about recent criminal incidences in the neighborhood. She also reported on the new Zone 1 initiative to report crime stats to residents weekly by email. Members were encouraged to sign up using the police attendance sheet or by the website.

### **Gardens and Greenspaces — Alexis Sykut**

Absent.

Ed Gergerich reported that regular meetings will occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the BHCF office. This is the planning phase for the upcoming year and volunteers are encouraged to contribute what time they have available.

### **Education Committee and Kaboom Playground — Kate Kelly and Larry Ehrlich**

Kate thanked all who helped to make 2015 a year of great progress, culminating in the Kaboom playground build. She announced that the Morrow PTO has grown by 17 members and that they have received a 2-year grant from Grow Pittsburgh to support the school garden and classroom activities. Volunteers are needed for tutoring and mentor programs as well as for the committee itself. Using a grant received by BHCF, indoor recess equipment will be purchased by the PTO. Public input in the new superintendent hiring process is encouraged.

### **Cleanup — Tim Maloney**

Absent.

Vince reported that efforts are being made to clean litter from the intersection of Rt 65 and Brighton Heights Blvd as weather permits.

### **Memorial Day — Joe Brown**

Joe reported on the planning process for this year's commemoration on May 30 at 10 am. He stressed that volunteers are needed for veteran flag placements at Highwood on May 27 and assistance before the ceremony on May 30 at 9 a.m.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Residents are reminded that unclaimed property held by the City can be found via their website.

### **Anything for the Good of the Federation**

Northside Catholic School will hold a Night at the Races fundraiser on January 29.

The next General Membership meeting will be March 10, 2016.

The 50/50 Raffle prize of \$14 was won by Amelia Kantenwein and donated it to BHCF.

Approximately 30 persons attended.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

### **Respectfully submitted**

**John Belch**

## **Last Page Laugh**

By Tom Kaylor

Sign in a pet store window:  
PUPPIES!  
BUY ONE, GET ONE FLEA!



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code + four \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

New Member    Membership     \$7.50 Family    Additional Donation  
 Renewal        for \_\_\_\_\_ years     \$5 Individual        (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Multiple year bonus:     \$3 Senior Citizen    for: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pay 3yrs – get 4 yrs                     \$2 Social Member  
 Pay 5 yrs – get 7 yrs                     \$10 Corporate/Group

Please do not send cash and make checks payable to: "BHCF, Inc"

Your cancelled check is your receipt. Your membership  
Renewal date will be printed after your name on your mailing label.

Send to: **BHCF Treasurer  
3629 California Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212**

**Membership is also available on-line at [www.brightonheights.org](http://www.brightonheights.org)**

**The next Membership Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
at John Morrow Auditorium on the corner of Davis and Fleming Avenues.**

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

Address Service Requested



**Brighton Heights Citizens Federation  
3629 California Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212**