



# BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 49  
ISSUE 3

## CITIZENS REPORT

May 2019

### 2019 Memorial Day

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation, the Brightwood Civic Group and American Legion Post #681 are once again proud to announce the 2019 Memorial Day Dedication held at Legion Park at the corner of Brighton Road and Shadeland Avenue in Brighton Heights. This year's program is the 71st year this program has taken place in the 27th Ward. The program will be held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. sharp. There will be refreshments following the program. We ask you to bring your own chair as there is no seating available at the Memorial Park. Also, on Friday, May 24, 2019, we will once again place flags on the grave-sites of fallen heroes in Highwood Cemetery at 2800 Brighton Road in Brightwood (Marshall Shadeland). We begin at 9:30 a.m. and we always welcome help.

**If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact the event coordinator.**

**CONTACT:** Joe Brown  
**PHONE:** 412-758-6112



PHOTO BY NAVARJUN SINGH ON UNSPLASH

**Next General  
Membership  
Meeting**  
Thursday  
May 9th, 2019  
7:00 P.M.  
Morrow  
Auditorium

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## President's Report

Vince Pallus

Spring is finally here! I hope everyone considers joining us for all of the events that we have planned this year. Please keep an eye out for important dates and event details. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brendan Schubert for his years of dedication to the BHCF Board of Directors. We thank him for his willingness to volunteer and wish him the best.

Every year the Northside Leadership Conference hosts an annual award dinner for the Northside. This year the event is on June 13. If you are interested in attending, you can get all the details on the NSLC website. As a member of the conference, BHCF can select a neighborhood awardee and present them with the award at the annual dinner. I am honored to say that California Coffee Bar was selected as our neighborhood awardee this year. They are very involved in the neighborhood and are always willing to help when asked. We thank them for all their participation in our neighborhood events and thank them for operating their business in Brighton Heights. If you have not stopped by to check them out, I highly recommend that you do. Congratulations on your award.

I would like to thank Rick Quigley, Jr., owner of Let's Cut a Deal Services, for taking down the lights on the tree at Legion Park from the holiday season. He volunteered his services when we could not find anyone to do it. He has also committed to helping us hang and remove the lights this year for the holiday season. Rick is a Brighton Heights resident and the neighborhood thanks you for donating your time and resources.

I hope to see everyone at our next BHCF general membership meeting on **May 9, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

## From Councilwoman Darlene Harris

Hello everyone and happy spring! I hope you all had a very blessed Easter and were able to spend some quality time with friends and family.

Warmer weather means that flowers, plants, and grass begin to grow outside. In order to keep lawns looking clean and fresh, the City of Pittsburgh is implementing the City Cuts program again this year for veterans, senior citizens, and disabled who are eligible for free grass cutting. The Office of Community Affairs began accepting applications in the beginning of April and planned on beginning cutting in May. To see if they are still accepting applications and for more information about the program, visit: <http://pittsburghpa.gov/citycuts/> or call 412-255-4773.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Have a great rest of spring!

**CONTACT:** Darlene M. Harris, Councilwoman, District 1

**PHONE:** 412-255-2135

**EMAIL:** [darlene.harris@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:darlene.harris@pittsburghpa.gov)



PHOTO BY MASA AKI KOMORI ON UNSPLASH

## Neighborhood Crime Information

If any member of the Brighton Heights Citizens 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 May.

- 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 May.

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

## 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  
Distribution: Vince Pallus

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:  
Treasurer: Gretchen Serra  
Corresponding Sec: Danielle Graham Robinson  
Recording Secretary: John Belch

### Directors

Brendan Delaney, Janice Johns-Engelman,  
Joe Glassbrenner, Bill Goodrich, Kate Kelley,  
Donna Kramer, Dave Lebec, Tim Maloney, Stacey Roa,  
John Norman, Helen Wehner

## 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<br>(before 3 p.m.)<br>412-255-2935<br>(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<br>You are a direct victim<br>Graffiti Busters (will remove it)<br>Graffiti Watch | 311<br>911<br>412-255-2872<br>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,<br>and Intelligence Division (ONI)   | 412-665-4300  |
| Parking Authority  | 412-560-7275  |
| Pittsburgh School Police<br>Police - Zone 1  | 412-622-3520<br>412-323-7201                                      |
| Public Works   | 412-255-2790  |
| Refuse/Recycling   | 412-255-2773  |





## Neighborhood Safety

Please remember to close and lock all windows and doors when you are away from home. Call 911 to report any suspicious person, activity or vehicle to the police. Do not leave anything of value within eye sight in your car especially money, cell phone, camera, keys, wallet or purse. Always remember to lock your car. Take valuables with you when leaving your car.

## 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 a Word doc attachment no later than August 1. Thank you for your cooperation.

**CONTACT:** Dave Lebec, Editor

**EMAIL:** [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.

## From Sarah Steers

Pittsburgh held its fourth annual Inclusive Innovation Summit (<http://summit.weinnovatepgh.net/>) from Thursday, March 28 through Saturday, March 30. Billed as an “opportunity for local organizations and businesses to come together and showcase their vision for inclusion,” the Summit explored a wide range of topics, including:

- what community resources are available to help immigrant and minority-owned small businesses;
- how to identify and use language interpreters to help community members or attract a wider range of customers;
- the ways lawyers are creating an inclusive startup community and helping small businesses to thrive; and
- a detailed introduction to local and national crowdfunding opportunities.

Over the past few years, we've all read the stories: journalists crisscrossing the U.S., asking why some regions bounce back from economic collapse while others wither on the vine. Western Pennsylvania, and Pittsburgh in particular, is a region that made the necessary changes in order to thrive. But that doesn't mean every member of our community feels like they've been included in the rising tide. Organizations like Assemble, Casa San Jose, Homewood Children's Village, Honeycomb Credit, Idea Foundry, Innovation Works, and the Riverside Center for Innovation (all represented at the Inclusive Innovation Summit) help individuals from the diverse communities that make up our city (people of color, women, LGBTQIA individuals, veterans, etc.) gain access to the information they need in order to succeed. Everyone should have access to knowledge and funding so they can get up and running. The information presented at the Inclusive Innovation Summit is a good start.

PHOTO BY WILLIE FINEBERG ON UNSPLASH



## A Word From the Mayor's Office

Spring has finally arrived in Pittsburgh! As we look forward towards warmer weather and outdoor fun, the Office of Mayor William Peduto would like to share some exciting news from the first few months of 2019 with our friends in Brighton Heights.

### Learn & Earn Summer Youth Employment Program:

Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh and Partner4Work announced the opening of the application period for the Learn & Earn Summer Youth Employment Program and called on area employers to inspire the next generation of talent by participating in Learn & Earn's Corporate Internship component. Learn & Earn annually connects nearly 2,000 under-served Allegheny County and Pittsburgh residents ages 14 through 21 with 6-week summer jobs in high-demand sectors including health care, education and STEM. There is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to the summer employment program. Learn & Earn opportunities can range from career exploration activities, service-learning or work-study to entrepreneurship and corporate internships. Last year, 25 Learn & Earn providers connected young people with jobs at 350 businesses, where they collectively earned \$1.5 million in wages, while exploring career options, gaining work experience, and developing soft skills in areas such as communications and teamwork.

The Learn & Earn work period begins June 25 and runs through August 3, 2019. The application period ends at 11 p.m., Friday, May 4. Interested youth may complete the application online at [www.jobs4summer.org](http://www.jobs4summer.org) or visit in-person application sites for extra support in completing the application. A map of the support sites is available at [www.jobs4summer.org](http://www.jobs4summer.org). Employers interested in participating in the Corporate Internship program should contact Shuly Goldman, Learn & Earn manager, at [412-552-7090](tel:412-552-7090) or [sgoldman@partner4work.org](mailto:sgoldman@partner4work.org).

"Through our partnership with Allegheny County and Partner4Work, we are breaking down barriers that prevent young adults from acquiring the work experience and skills needed to become career-ready for in-demand occupations," said Mayor William Peduto. "Now in its fourth year, Learn & Earn has become a model for summer youth employment programs, bringing together businesses, non-profits and local government to deliver meaningful work experiences that inspire and engage young adults."

### URA Housing Opportunity Fund:

The Housing Opportunity Fund strives to make Pittsburgh a more diverse, vibrant city that is affordable to all. The Housing Opportunity Fund (HOF) supports the development

and preservation of affordable and accessible housing within the City of Pittsburgh. More information is available at <https://www.ura.org/pages/housing-opportunity-fund-programs> or by contacting HOF Community Outreach Specialist Vethina Hage at [412-255-6639](tel:412-255-6639), or email at [vhage@ura.org](mailto:vhage@ura.org).

Programs Include:

- **Rental Gap Program (RGP)**  
RGP loans are available to developers for the creation and/or preservation of affordable units.
- **Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program (DPCCAP)**  
The DPCCAP provides financing to first-time homebuyers in the City of Pittsburgh.
- **Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP)**  
HAP provides financial and technical assistance to eligible homeowners for rehabilitating and improving residential owner-occupied properties within the City of Pittsburgh.
- **Housing Stabilization Program**  
Through service providers, this program provides short term (up to 1 year) of rental assistance to households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- **Affordable For-sale Housing Program**  
This program supports developers to renovate or construct quality homes for first-time homebuyers.

### Keep Up With The City:

To keep up with what's happening with the City, feel free to follow us online and on social media!

- **Monthly Newsletter:** [newsletter.pittsburghpa.gov](http://newsletter.pittsburghpa.gov)
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ocapgh/>
- **Twitter:** @CityPGH & @OCAPGH
- **Nextdoor:** Public Agency: Community Affairs

We look forward to continuing to work with and support the neighborhood of Brighton Heights and wish you and your families a wonderful spring.

Best,

The Office of Mayor William Peduto  
City of Pittsburgh

## State Representative Adam Ravenstahl

(D) Allegheny | [www.pahouse.com/Ravenstahl](http://www.pahouse.com/Ravenstahl)

### Protect your identity!

*Bring your documents to a free shredding event*

Identity theft is a very real, and very scary danger for millions of Americans.

With a piece of your identity — a Social Security or bank account number — a scammer can do untold damage to your finances. Worse, these types of attacks also undermine a person's mental health, and it can take years to financially recover.

There are a number of steps we all can take to protect our identities. One of the simplest is to protect yourself by properly destroying old paperwork – tax forms, bank statements and other documents – which could contain personal information like your Social Security card, credit card or bank account information.

On Saturday, May 11, my office, along with those of state Representative Sara Innamorato and state Senator Wayne Fontana, will host a shredding event at the Busy Beaver parking lot in Lawrenceville (4743 Plummer Street). Shredding will be available from 10 a.m. to noon, or until the trucks are full.

I strongly encourage people to bring their paperwork to this event to ensure that it is properly destroyed. We will have a bonded and reputable shredding company destroying documents on-site.

Best of all, perhaps, is that the event is entirely free.

All we ask is that the papers you bring to shred be loose – no binders or paper clips. There is also a five bag/box limit. If you have questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Please consider protecting your identity and take advantage of this opportunity to have your personal documents shredded.

*Adam Ravenstahl represents the 20th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.*

**CONTACT:** Nick Malawskey  
House Democratic Communications Office

**PHONE:** 717-787-7895

**ADDRESS:** 3689 California Ave., Pittsburgh 15212

**EMAIL:** [nmalawskey@pahouse.net](mailto:nmalawskey@pahouse.net)



## Home Fire Campaign

Since 2014, the American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign has partnered with area fire departments and community organizations to reduce the number of home fire related death and injuries. Over 550 lives nationwide have been saved due to this effort.

In Pittsburgh, the American Red Cross and the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire have worked together to educate city residents on the importance of having and practicing home fire escape plans and to install free smoke alarms where none exist or where existing ones have failed.

Residents of Pittsburgh's Northside community, who wish to have free smoke alarms installed in their homes, should call 3-1-1 and leave a message when prompted. A Red Cross volunteer will reach out to arrange a time for a Red Cross team of volunteers to come to your home to install the smoke alarms and provide important fire safety education.

## Kidney Donor Needed

Janice Engelman, a longtime member of our Federation, is asking for a donor for her husband, Ray. He was born with only one kidney, which is beginning to fail.

A donor is needed immediately to save his life. If anyone is interested in donating, or knows someone who is willing, please contact Janice at 412-732-0167.

She claims that no costs are involved.



## From The Carnegie Library

Dear Neighbors,

We love this time of year as the library warms up with many exciting new programs and events.

We hope to see you soon!

Best Wishes,  
Marta Honores  
Manager, CLP-Woods Run

**ADDRESS:** 1201 Woods Run Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**PHONE:** 412-761-3730

**EMAIL:** woodsrun@carnegielibrary.org

**WEBSITE:** www.carnegielibrary.org/clp\_location/woods-run/



### **ADOPT-A-LOT WORKSHOP** **SATURDAY, MAY 11 | 2 – 3 P.M.**

Join us to learn more about the City of Pittsburgh's Adopt-a-Lot Program. In this workshop, you will gain the tools you need to turn vacant lots into community assets such as edible gardens, storm water gardens, or flower gardens. From finding a vacant lot, to the Adopt-A-Lot application process, to financing your project, and to planning and designing the space, this workshop will provide you with the information you need to succeed.

### **BEST BOOKS FOR BABIES: BABY BOOK SHOWER** **SATURDAY, MAY 25 | 3:30 – 4:30 P.M.**

Welcome Little One! Parents-to-be, parents of babies, and babies ages birth to 18 months will enjoy cake, songs, games, and books. Parents and guardians will take home a set of Best Books for Babies. We'll celebrate you as your child's first and most important teacher! Registration is recommended for adult guests; babies attending the book shower do not need individual registration.

### **GREEN GROCER: THE MOBILE FARMERS MARKET** **TUESDAYS | 3 – 4 P.M.**

Green Grocer is a mobile farmers market selling fresh, healthy food at an affordable price. Every Tuesday from 3 – 4 p.m. you will be able to stop by the library to purchase fresh produce, as well as frozen meat, eggs, rice, pasta, and beans. Everyone is welcome to shop at the market, and multiple forms of payment are accepted, including cash, credit card, and SNAP/EBT.

### **SAVE THE DATES! UPCOMING IN JUNE:**

#### **ANNUAL SUMMER KICK-OFF PARTY** **THURSDAY, JUNE 13 | 10:30 A.M.**

Popsicles, a family-friendly music performance, and arts and crafts. Not a bad way to start off the summer! While you're here, don't forget to register for the summer reading program!

#### **LUNCH BREAK AT THE LIBRARY** **MONDAY - FRIDAY | 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.** **BEGINNING JUNE 17**

Stop by the Library every weekday for hands-on activities, crafts and games with friends! A hot lunch will be provided during this program while supplies last each day. Lunch and activities are for youth ages 18 and younger, and for persons with disabilities up to age 21. No registration necessary.

## Our Deepest Condolences

From M. Fatla

We are sad to report that Dick Schubert of Troy Hill has passed away at 80. Dick was a long time Board member of NSLC, representing Troy Hill Citizens, and one of the volunteers who created the NSLC Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner. He was also active for many years with the Northside Public Safety Council. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the NSLC Dinner several years ago in recognition of his life of volunteer service to Troy Hill and all of Northside. He also was a genial Northside "character" in the best sense of that word. Here is the obituary:

You can read the full obituary, posted March 25, 2019, at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/postgazette/> or at [www.brightonheights.org](http://www.brightonheights.org).

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I know many of you did not know Dick Schubert, but the efforts of folks like Dick have made possible what NSLC does today. Our condolences to his family and our neighbors on Troy Hill.

## 2019 Chocolate House Tour Update

From Joe Glassbrenner

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federations House Tour Committee has begun planning the 2019 Chocolate House Tour. I'm happy to announce we already have three homes committed to be on tour. This is great news towards our goal of a 10 home minimum. The committed homes have never been seen before on the tour. The locations are within a short walk of our starting point which will begin at Legion Park.

Two homes are located on Orchlee Street and one home located on Termon Avenue. We are still seeking home volunteers within walking distance of our Legion Park starting point.

Please Contact the Federation office by email or phone if interested in volunteering your home or becoming involved on the planning committee. The House Tour Committee is an exciting way to help organize a rewarding event for Brighton Heights. Committee members have varying levels of commitment ranging from in-depth planning to day of volunteers. You may be interested in getting out the word as we walk the neighborhood Saturday May 18, 2019, (weather permitting) beginning at 11:00 a.m. We will be distributing literature, home owner volunteer letters, and recruiting membership for the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation.

I hope to see everyone at our General Membership Meeting on May 9 at John Morrow School where we will announce the September tour date for this year!

## Garden Committee May Schedule

From Ed Gergerich

Last issue you heard about our 12 community gardens in Brighton Heights. This time its all about time. We have something going on starting at 9 a.m. every Saturday in May:

- **Saturday, May 4** we will be planting the garden at PA 65 and B.H. Blvd. opposite the McKees Rocks Bridge. The WPC will have the garden tilled and covered with black plastic. They also are providing blue salvia, red zinnias, mixed marigolds and mulch. We just have to plug in the plants and spread the mulch. Volunteers who drive to the area should park on Granada Street, at the top of the Great Wall and use the steps at Davis Avenue. I'll have wheelbarrows and large tools ready but extra hand tools are always appreciated.
- **Thursday, May 9** at 7 p.m. is the BHCF General Meeting. Anyone who ordered hanging baskets can pick them up at the meeting.
- **Saturday, May 11** is prep day at Legion Park and the 3 gardens at Termon and California. We'll be cleaning out dead plants, attacking weeds while they are young, pruning shrubs, and transplanting some of our spreaders like Lambs Ears and blue Bachelor Buttons and preparing areas for planting our splash of annuals. As before, we'll have major tools available but feel free to bring your own hand tools.
- **Thursday, May 16** is flower delivery day at my house. Thanks to all who ordered flowers through our BHCF sale. I'll try to get your flats delivered to you Thursday or Friday. You can also pick up your order yourself and if you are really ambitious, help to unload the truck and sort out the orders.
- **Saturday, May 18** is planting day at Legion Park and the Termon and California 3 (Green-up Lot, Adams Lot, and Bears Lot). We have 50 flats (1800 plants) to get in the ground. 'Nuf said.
- **Saturday, May 25** is follow-up day; anything that didn't get done in the previous weeks gets worked on today. Trust me: there will be something.
- **Monday, May 27** is Memorial Day. Kick back and enjoy the program and flowers at Legion Park

We have a variety of tasks, something for everyone. So if you have bad knees or allergies don't let that keep you away.

All of the garden events will **start at 9 a.m.**, rain or shine (the flowers don't mind rain and it saves us the watering task). Dress appropriately. We'll continue until noon or 1 p.m. or until fatigue sets in. Hope to see you there and there and there.



## Neighborhood Good News: Besties of BriHi

From Danielle Graham Robinson

In 2008 one of my best friends, Robyn and her husband bought a home in Brighton Heights. Like me, Robyn grew up in the South Hills so crossing a bridge and planting roots on the North Side was so unheard of, that I didn't even know where Brighton Heights was, because I actually never heard of it. When I first came to visit her, there was something familiar about this neighborhood. I remember calling it "the Brookline of the North" mostly because the houses and streets looked similar.

Robyn often raved about her new neighborhood, the incredible deal she got on her home, and shared a vision that one day, her closest friends would live on her street. We thought her vision was a bit naive and attributed it to her college obsession with Melrose Place, because that's where things like that happen — on TV. Little did our other best friend, Hilary and I know how wrong we'd be! Within a few years, a good friend of Robyn's and her husband moved in across the street, and in another year or so, another friend moved in next to him.

In 2015, Robyn's 90+ year old next door neighbor Olga fell ill, and her family decided that they needed to make end of life decisions that required Olga to move into a nursing home where she spent the rest of her days. Olga was a widow who survived her husband Joe, who passed years prior. When the family was taking care of Olga's estate, they approached Robyn (or she approached them, not sure) and within months, Hilary had made an offer that was acceptable to the estate. At this time, my husband and I were also house hunting. We had a house under contract in Beechview, in fact. But when I found out that my two best friends were going to own homes right next to each other, I told my husband that we had to back out of the Beechview deal. Needless to say, my husband was very gracious and agreed to oblige my completely irrational request.

At the time, no other homes were for sale on Robyn's street. My agent ended up sending letters to everyone on the block, letting them know that he had a buyer who was interested in living here, but nobody was interested in moving.

Within months of inquiring, it was brought to our attention that the 90+ year old woman who lived ACROSS the street from Robyn, also named Olga, had also fallen ill. Her family, much like the other Olga's family had to take measures for her end of life care, and she went into hospice after her



health declined rapidly. Olga 2 (we affectionately call her) also survived her husband who was ALSO named Joe. I believe they had three children, two of whom we met when they were handling the estate. The family was aware that we were looking to buy, and they appreciated our commitment to build a community here with friends who had already bought homes on our block, and within a couple months of Hilary closing on her house, the family accepted our offer on the house directly across the street from Robyn and Hilary's houses, and we closed in October of 2015.

We couldn't believe that we did it. Hilary, Robyn and I have been best friends for over 25 years. There were times we didn't think we'd ever live in the same state together let alone in the same cluster of homes on the same block! We of course, decided to rename our street "Bestie Lane," and it's how we refer to it on a regular basis. We even added Bestie Lane Ext with our newest edition, Devon, who bought a house at the end of our street in 2017.

I am a real estate agent. I know how impossible it is for something like this to occur. That's why I believe it is part of our destiny to live here. Strangely, life still happens and our busy lives STILL make it hard to see one another sometimes, but we can't help but consider ourselves beyond lucky to be able to share this kind of community in our adult lives, in a neighborhood that was so cared for by the people who came before us. We strive to make the Olga's proud!

# MINUTES

## Review of Previous General Membership Meeting

### March 14, 2019

The meeting was brought to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Minutes from the January 10, 2019, General Membership meeting were approved without corrections.

### Special Guests:

#### Pittsburgh Police

##### Officer Payton

Officer Payton presented crime statistics for the recent month and updated residents on the successful deployment of the Shot-Spotter system for Zone 1.

#### URA Housing Opportunity Fund

##### Vethina Hage

Vethina reported on the rollout of five programs the URA is administering for the Housing Opportunity Fund, a new fund supported by an increase in the realty transfer tax. They are Rental Gap, Affordable For-Sale Housing, Housing Stabilization, Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance and Homeowner Assistance. She answered questions and left contact materials for those interested in learning more.

#### City Council

##### Councilwoman Darlene Harris

Councilwoman Harris reported on her submissions to the street paving, weed clearing and city tree lists to the Public Works department. She had concerns on upcoming legislation to reduce garbage pollution on and after pickup days. Members encouraged her to keep the 7 p.m. set-out time the day before pickup. She also updated members on the Norfolk Southern railroad issue and landslides throughout her district.

#### State Representative Adam

##### Ravenstahl

##### Vince Pallus

Vince reported on the rollout of REAL ID and announced a document shredding effort in Lawrenceville on May 11. More information is available at the office.

### Report of Officers and Others:

#### President's Report

##### Vince Pallus

Vince introduced all Board members present, who detailed their office and/or committee assignment(s) and thanked them for their work. He reported that the Northside Community Development Fund will be hosting an informational event in the neighborhood soon to educate local businesses on their funding opportunities. He thanked the local Let's Cut A Deal tree service for volunteering to remove the holiday lights from the tree at Legion Park.

#### Vice President

Vince announced the resignation of Brendan Schubert as Vice President and thanked him for his years of service to the Federation.

#### Corresponding Secretary

##### Danielle Graham Robinson

Danielle reminded members if they see any errors or needed updates on our website or Facebook to please contact her. The deadline for the next newsletter is April 1.

#### Treasurer's Report

##### Gretchen Serra

Net Worth Report – As of 2/28/2019

| Assets — Cash and Bank Accounts     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Monument                            | 1,637.63          |
| Operating Account                   | 1,059.31          |
| SSB OP Acct                         | 679.51            |
| State Grant Account                 | 4,629.99          |
| United Way                          | 1,167.97          |
| <b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b> | <b>\$9,415.71</b> |

A motion to accept was approved. Vince thanked Councilwoman Harris for her financial support again for 2019 which includes grants for security cameras and operational costs.

### Report of Committees:

#### NSLC

##### Vince Pallus and John Belch

Vince reported that this year's NSLC Scholarship dinner will be held June 13. The possible sale of SCI Pittsburgh without public input has created a working group including BHCF and others, led by Brightwood to get all parties into the decision process. The NSLC will be the project manager for an implementation plan to reuse the former McNaugher school in Perry South by the Northside Partnership Project.

#### Neighborhood Safety Committee

##### Donna Kramer

Donna reported that there will be a city-wide public safety council meeting on April 17 in Lawrenceville. She introduced members to the Red Cross "Sound The Alarm" smoke detector program. She urged any residents in the neighborhood to sign up for this free smoke detector installation program. The Federation will publicize when they will be in our neighborhood and door hangers will be distributed.

## **Families, Youth and Children Committee**

### ***Kate Kelley***

Kate reported that the committee is offering sewing/cooking programs for the Fridays that Pittsburgh Public School has half days. The next one will be held on March 22. There is open sewing time for adults on Wednesdays from 7–10 p.m. until June at the All Saints Church location. Fall after-school programs are being planned if grant efforts are successful.

## **Gardens and Greenspaces**

### ***Ed Gergerich and Stacey Roa***

Ed reported on the garden dates for May: **May 4** - Rt. 65 conservancy garden planting, **May 11** – garden prep day, **May 18** – garden planting day. He and Stacey have organized a flower basket and flower flat sale this year as a fundraiser for the BHCF. Baskets and flats will be available for pickup in time for Mother's Day. Orders are due April 11. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

## **Clean-up**

### ***Tim Maloney***

The spring cleanup day will be held April 27 starting at 9 a.m. All are encouraged to help if possible.

## **Land Use Committee**

Vince reported that Jessica Mooney has stepped down from the chair of this committee but will still be involved. He thanked her for her work on this assignment. Studies are continuing for the storm water management portion of the St Johns property project.

## **Memorial Day Ceremony**

### ***Pete Galinowski and Joe Brown***

Pete announced that the next committee meeting will be held on March 26 and volunteers are needed May 24 for flag-placing at Highwood Cemetery. The commemoration will be held on May 27 at 10 a.m.

## **House Tour**

### ***Joe Glassbrenner***

Joe reported that solicitation for homes will begin soon and the date will be finalized for September once the Steeler schedule is publicized. Anyone wishing to volunteer or volunteer their home should contact him.

## **Welcome**

### ***Amy Zuraski-Carrera***

Vince asked members to send information on new neighbors to the BHCF so Amy and committee can welcome them to Brighton Heights.

## **Old Business**

California Automotive has received all their permits, etc., and should be starting the transformation into a gas station and convenience store soon.

## **New Business**

None.

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

The next General Membership meeting will be May 9, 2019.

The 50/50 Raffle prize was won by Beverly Lichauer.

Approximately 45 persons attended.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

## **Respectfully submitted**

***John Belch***

## **Last Page Laugh**

*By Tom Kaylor*

When John, the hardworking dishwasher at Joe's Restaurant got injured he was put on dish-ability. You might say he was out of sync for a while.





# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

New Member     Renewal  
 Membership for \_\_\_\_\_ years

MULTIPLE YEAR BONUS:

Pay 3 years >>> get 4 years!

Pay 5 years >>> get 7 years!

Family (\$10)  
 Individual (\$7.50)  
 Senior Citizen (\$5)  
 Social (\$5)  
 Corporate (\$20)

Additional Donation  
 (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 for: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.**

Make checks payable to BHCF, INC.  
 Send to: **BHCF TREASURER**  
 3629 CALIFORNIA AVENUE  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

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

Membership is also available online at [www.brightonheights.org](http://www.brightonheights.org)

**THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**  
 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