



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

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ISSUE 3

CITIZENS REPORT

May 2020

Look for the Helpers

By Danielle Graham Robinson

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” – Fred Rogers

There have been quite a few scary things in the news as of late. A coping strategy, inspired by Mr. Rogers, has been to “look for the helpers”.

It has been nothing short of awe-inspiring to see how people in this neighborhood have risen to the challenge of BEING the helpers that have brought comfort in times of uncertainty. I am encouraged by the ways we have adapted to each other’s needs. The ways people have offered to share food, resources, and inspiration have helped me in immeasurable ways.

I’ve enjoyed your silly posts, your vacation pictures, the lettuce and parsley a neighbor shared, and the tiny plant from a sweet boy named Jasper that appeared on my front porch. I am inspired by people who have reached out to ask how they can help neighbors and those who have provided the BHCF with ideas for kids to be heard.



PHOTO BY KELLY SIKKEMA ON UNSPLASH

I’ve appreciated the messages asking if I had everything, and have made every effort to pay it forward whenever possible. I have also enjoyed the increased foot (and paw!) traffic on my street. I’ve noticed even friendlier conversation, and a general sense of concern for one another from complete strangers.

I don’t like being home-bound any more than the next person, but I do like that human beings find ways to prioritize the small, yet vitally important things in life, when faced with adversity.

Thanks, neighbors! Love Yinz!

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**Next General
Membership
Meeting**
**Thursday
May 14th, 2020
7:00 P.M.**
Visit brightonheights.org
for details.

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A Message From Our President

I can say with confidence this spring has been unlike any other season most of us have lived through. By the time you read this letter, we as Brighton Heights Citizens will have successfully followed the changing guidelines provided by the Center of

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for one whole month. I commend the community on the adherence to the new policies and openness to change I have observed.

The in-person General Membership Meeting normally scheduled for May 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at John Morrow School Auditorium will be canceled in the interest of public health. I would advise you to check our website at brightonheights.org for the most recent information and other event updates under the "Activities" Tab.

In March, an application for Traffic Calming was submitted to the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI). The area received complaints of speeding and crossing a double yellow line to pass. The street is California Avenue and the section is from Antrim Street to Bainton Street. Well over 50% of resident's signatures were obtained by Donna Kramer. Thank you Donna for the leg work. More applications can be submitted if you feel a street is unsafe. The link for more information and printable applications is: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/domi/traffic-calming>. New applications may be submitted as an individual or under the BHCF name.

I have started a variety of vegetables for giveaway in coordination with the May gardening events that were

previously scheduled. The vegetables are on display in the Federation office window and are still available. The Garden areas of the California and Termon Avenues will be directed by Ed Gergerich (412-761-9796). The Legion Park Gardens directed by Kim Larsen (412-818-8876). The Garden Committee has decided to have residents volunteer at their own scheduled time given the CDC and government mandates are not lifted by May. Please contact garden directors by phone to schedule an individual volunteer time and vegetable plant pickups.

The last update I have is from the Board of Directors Meeting on April 2, 2020. Given the pandemic the community has faced in 2020, the Board has passed a motion to grant any BHCF Member who is a dues paying member as of the September 13, 2020, General Meeting eligibility to vote in the BHCF 2020 Elections. Members attending the November General Membership Meeting on November 12, 2020, will be considered eligible to vote in the 2020 BHCF Election.

See you in the neighborhood!

Important Message Regarding May General Membership Meeting

Due to the uncertainties regarding social distancing guidelines in the coming months, the public General Membership Meeting scheduled for May 14, 2020, is canceled. We will hold a virtual meeting (for informational purposes) using the Zoom app and will be sending out a link to the meeting on our website, Facebook page, and email blast. If you are not sure whether or not we have your email address, please email us at bhcfpgh@gmail.com.

We value our members and are grateful for your patience and understanding as we reinvent ways to meet our community's needs.

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: Joseph Glassbrenner

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

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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



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

Interested in Sharing a Story with Your Community?

Submit your story in less than 250 words using the submission link on the 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 April 1. Thank you for your cooperation.

CONTACT: Dave Lebec, Editor

EMAIL: submissions@brightonheights.org

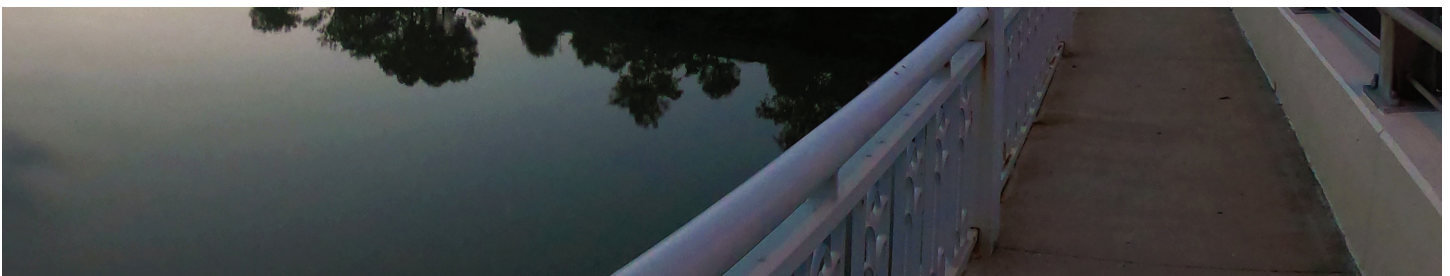
Go Green by Getting Your Newsletter by Email

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.

Another Newsletter Available

Brighton Heights' residents should be aware of another Northside newsletter that is available to provide more information on Northside news and events.

Northside Happenings is now available for the general public. If interested, you may contact them at: ons@buhlfoundation.org.



From Councilman Bobby Wilson

Hello everyone! I hope you are doing well in these difficult times. I realize that the corona-virus outbreak has posed many new and difficult challenges to all of us. As we have paused our lives to stay home and stop the virus's spread, I am exceedingly grateful for all the front-line responders – the police, paramedics, firefighters, sanitation workers, delivery drivers, grocery store workers, nurses, doctors, Allegheny County Health Department employees and all healthcare workers – who have kept our city safe and running. In this column, I want to share several new resources for the residents and small businesses of Brighton Heights.

In response to the corona-virus outbreak, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) created the Housing Stabilization Fund to provide financial help to those whose hours have been cut or who are unable to work and are struggling to pay their rent or mortgage and utilities. It is particularly geared towards helping tenants at or below 50% of the area median income (AMI) to pay their rent and utilities and homeowners at or below 80% AMI to stay current on their mortgage payments. If you need such help, please call the [Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh](#) at (412) 227-4164 or email hintake@uplgh.org with your city address, two most recent pay stubs, and a letter from your employer verifying your situation.

The URA has also instituted two measures to lessen the economic impact of the corona-virus outbreak on local small businesses. These include:

- Halting all loan payments to the URA from small business borrowers for the month of April 2020
- Offering its current small business borrowers Emergency Extended Credit, up to an additional \$15,000 at 0% interest, to ease cash flow difficulties over the next several weeks

If you run a small business and need help right now, please contact Tom Link (tlink@ura.org) or Jennifer Wilhelm (jwilhelm@ura.org) at the URA to see how your small business can get the resources it needs during this crisis. You can also find additional resources for businesses and residents from the federal government, philanthropic organizations and the business community at www.ura.org/pages/covid-19.

At the federal level, the U.S. Small Business Administration is offering Economic Injury Disaster Loans to small businesses and nonprofits hurting due to the corona-virus outbreak. Within four to five weeks of applying, you could receive \$25,000 for Physical Damage and another \$25,000 for Economic Injury to replenish your organization's working capital. You can use these loans to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that are piling up due to the corona-virus outbreak. The interest rate on these loans

is 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for nonprofits. For questions on program details, eligibility requirements, and the application process, please apply at SBA.gov/Disaster, contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center at 1-800-659-2955 or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

As we all practice social distancing and adhere to guidelines that will help protect ourselves and our loved ones, please take a few minutes to respond to the U.S. Census. Every 10 years, the United States conducts a census of the entire population. It has never been easier to get counted on your own, whether online, over the phone, or by mail – all without having to meet a census taker. It is extremely important that everyone gets counted. The census is used to determine congressional representation and allocate millions of dollars in federal funding in southwest Pennsylvania to support schools, hospitals, infrastructure developments and other community-based services. The City of Pittsburgh, foundations, businesses, and public schools rely on census information to make important decisions about local policies, funding distribution, where to start businesses and more. The participation of every resident in the census will help make sure that we receive the federal funds that we need to serve everyone equitably. When you complete the census, you're helping Brighton Heights receive the resources it needs to thrive. Get counted today at <https://2020census.gov/>.

I want to reassure my constituents in Brighton Heights that my office is open during this corona-virus outbreak. Though my staff is working remotely to ensure that we are meeting social distancing requirements, they are working hard to make sure you get all the answers and assistance they need. Likewise, major City of Pittsburgh services are fully operational and we can help connect you with those services. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (412) 255-2135. You can also follow and contact my office on Facebook and Twitter. **If you need urgent help, please email my Chief of Staff, Sally Stadelman, at sally.stadelman@pittsburghpa.gov.** I am ready to help you in any way possible.

This is a challenging and unprecedented moment in my short time as your Councilman. I am focused on making sure that all of you have the latest and best information about the spread of corona-virus and the measures that we are taking to contain it. My work is made significantly easier by my faith in your extraordinary resilience and resourcefulness, both as individuals and as communities. We will all get through this together. Until then, please stay home, be kind to your neighbors, and take care of your loved ones.

CONTACT: Bobby Wilson, Councilman, District 1
PHONE: 412-255-2135
EMAIL: Bobby.Wilson@pittsburghpa.gov

Update on the Congressional Response to COVID-19

From Senator Pat Toomey

A lethal pathogen has invaded our country, killing hundreds and making tens of thousands ill. In an effort to contain the spread of the coronavirus, employers across the country, including in Pennsylvania, have been forced to close. Our economy is shutting down and millions of Americans are unable to work, travel, or simply enjoy common aspects of life. To further address this ongoing crisis, the Senate this week passed the CARES Act – phase three of the congressional response.

For financially-stressed families and workers who are furloughed or laid off, the CARES Act delivers direct payments and expanded unemployment benefits. The CARES Act aims to keep this economic contraction from becoming a full-blown depression through crucial lending programs for businesses – small and large – so they can survive an extended period with little or no revenue.

This bill will also help America forcefully combat this unprecedented public health crisis. It gives billions of dollars in aid for hospitals treating the sick, researchers developing a vaccine, and healthcare workers and first responders on the front line of this fight.

The CARES Act is far from perfect. Unfortunately, it contains policies that waste taxpayer money and others that create unhelpful incentives. Nevertheless, this bill will do much more good than harm. This crisis demands this action and the Senate delivered.

More information about the CARES Act can be found below:

- CARES Act Summary
- CARES Act Bill Text
- CARES Act Section Breakdown

This week, I talked to reporters about the CARES Act and how the Senate worked together to get this massive aid package approved.

- **The Morning Call:** ‘A monumental undertaking’: Pennsylvania’s U.S. senators discuss scope, details of the massive federal coronavirus relief bill
- **Philadelphia Inquirer:** What the \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus bill could mean for PA and NJ
- **Penn Live:** No PA business or eligible resident will be left out of stimulus bill help, say Pat Toomey, Bob Casey
- **Pennsylvania Capital-Star:** PA’s Casey, Toomey vote for historic \$2 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Since the start of this outbreak, those on the front-lines – health care professionals, emergency responders, retail workers, public transit workers, and many others have worked day and night to ensure our safety and well-being. We owe these folks our gratitude for their selfless and ongoing efforts. Together as a nation, we will get through this crisis.

POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. If you have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive or traveled to a country outside of the U.S. within the past two weeks and develop symptoms, call your doctor.

STEPS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

By taking the same precautionary measures you might to mitigate contracting the flu, you can decrease the risk of contracting COVID-19.

It is important that individuals practice social distancing as much as possible. Guidance from federal and state officials encourages Americans to avoid all discretionary travel, including shopping trips, social visits, and gatherings of more than ten people.

In addition to social distancing, individuals are encouraged to practice good hygiene, avoid sick people, and stay home when sick.

Hand sanitizers are no more effective than traditional soap and water, when they are used properly. There is no need to go out of your way to procure hand sanitizer.

HOW TO HELP

FEMA has now created a website to collect the incredible outreach for help in a formal, systematic way. You can reach out directly to nbeoc@fema.dhs.gov.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Centers for Disease Control provides updates on the virus and safety information for the public and healthcare professionals.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health provides information on the virus and safety precautions.

I encourage all Pennsylvanians to take this situation very seriously and observe the recommendations developed by the CDC.

Federal Aid for Pittsburghers is on the Way

By U.S. Representative Mike Doyle

In March, Congress approved three laws to address the coronavirus pandemic. These laws provided billions of dollars in funding for vaccines and treatments for this deadly virus, as well as support for our nation's healthcare providers and state and local governments.

Congress also provided more than \$2 trillion to help American households and small businesses to make it through the coming weeks and months. Here are some of the provisions in these laws that may be of assistance to you or your loved ones.

DIRECT PAYMENTS TO HOUSEHOLDS

The U.S. government will provide cash payments ("rebates") to most American households, including those that receive Social Security benefits, of up to \$1,200 for each adult plus up to \$500 per child. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will provide additional information about the process for issuing these payments in the coming days. When that information becomes available, it will be available online at www.irs.gov/coronavirus.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Congress also expanded the Unemployment Compensation program to cover part-time, self-employed, and gig economy workers – and for the next four months it increased unemployment benefits by \$600 per week. In addition, Congress authorized an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits. If you are unemployed and live in Pennsylvania, you will be able to apply for this assistance through the Pennsylvania Office of Unemployment Compensation: online at www.uc.pa.gov, by email at uchelp@pa.gov, or by phone at **888-313-7284**.

EMERGENCY PAID LEAVE AND SICK LEAVE

Congress also established the right to emergency paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave for certain situations related to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information about what this means for you, check the Department of Labor web site at www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic.

FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

Congress also provided additional assistance to help Americans put food on the table during this crisis. Most of this assistance is available through the Allegheny County Assistance office, which you can reach online at www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Basic-Needs/Food-Assistance.aspx or by calling **412-565-2146**.

Congress also provided additional funding for emergency food assistance through food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens.

STUDENT LOAN RELIEF

Congress enacted a number of provisions to help borrowers with federal Direct Loans and FFEL loans that are held by the U.S. Department of Education – including no payments toward outstanding interest or principal through September 30. Congress also prohibited forced collections such as garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits through September 30, and it prohibited negative credit reporting during this time period. The Department of Education is expected to provide additional information about coronavirus-related relief for student borrowers in the near future. As this guidance becomes available, it will be accessible online at www.ed.gov. Additional information for student borrowers is available online at www.studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Congress created the SBA 7(a) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to provide zero interest, forgivable loans to small businesses and nonprofits for payroll costs (including paid leave, health care, and other costs) to retain workers -- and to help pay for other expenses like rent, mortgage interest, and utilities. Small businesses can also apply for up to \$10,000 in grants to retain workers and pay for debt obligations. Sole-proprietors, independent contractors, and other self-employed individuals are eligible for all of the SBA loans and grants, including refinancing existing SBA loans or a disaster loan into a PPP forgivable loan. Interested small businesses, 501(c)(3) nonprofits, and 501(c)(19) veterans organizations should contact their lender and the SBA's Pittsburgh office, either online at www.sba.gov/offices/district/pa/pittsburgh or by calling **412-395-6560**.

As I am your Representative in Congress, please feel free to contact my office with any questions that you may have about these programs, or if you need help in dealing with a federal agency, or if you want to share your views with me about the federal government or an issue before Congress. Please feel free to call my office at **202-225-2135** or leave me a message online at www.doyle.house.gov. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve you, and I welcome the opportunity to help you or learn about your concerns.

Storm Damage

By Joseph Glassbrenner

In the early hours of Wednesday, April 8, strong lightning storms with estimated 70 mph wind riddled the Brighton Heights neighborhood leaving homeowners with resulting damage, and causing quite a ruckus for The City of Pittsburgh Environmental Services on collection day.

The BHCF was able to catch up with residents Maurice and Sharon Pugh of Marmaduke St. for a few questions about the 60' pine tree that lay in the front yard of their home on April 8. After a brief introduction, Sharon agreed to answer some questions and share with the BHCF Newsletter. The first question I asked, "Did the thunder and lightning already have you up [awake]?" "No," Sharon stated. "The first thing I saw was the flashing and we couldn't tell if it was lighting or a power wire," she continued. "When you made it to the window and looked out front what did you say?" I asked with a half-smile because by this time we both had lightened up in a way and were laughing at the irony. "The tree fell," she said. My eyes were wide as I thought about my next question. "Was everyone OK?" Sharon said the tree brought down her electrical service line and it fell close to a neighbor's car covering it with pine needles but otherwise everyone was safe.

Sharon's story was not only interesting and a way to meet a new neighbor but a great reminder before summer if any of us experience a downed wire due to high winds or storm, report it immediately to Duquesne Light at [412-393-7000](tel:412-393-7000).

Before I conclude, I'd like to leave a friendly reminder: due to the nature of the waste removal process, please remember to have all loose trash in a tied leak-proof bag at the curb or place tied bags in a trash can with a lid. Recyclables should be loose in the appropriate blue bin with a lid. By following these measures, we can help keep Brighton Heights a little cleaner and the load much lighter.



Land Use Update

By Alex Carrera

As we are all keeping our heads down for everyone's safety and to "flatten the curve", I'd like to update everyone on exciting land use projects BHCF is involved in. We are currently working with the Northside Leadership Conference and others on the rehabilitation of existing homes at 3328 Fleming Avenue and 3829 California Avenue, the development of the vacant lots at 3835-3837 California Avenue, and the development of the old St John's hospital site on McClure Avenue.

The Citizen's Federation recently received the initial architectural proposals for the rehabilitation of the 3328 Fleming and 3829 California properties. Once those are reviewed and approved, we hope to move forward with construction this year, barring any Covid-19 related delays. We are still waiting on drawings for the development of the vacant lots at 3835-3837 California.

The site of St. John's hospital, closed in 1995 and demolished in the early 2000s, continues to be a focus of the BHCF. We are working with the URA, Allegheny Land Trust, and PWSA to design the site and will be working with the public to understand what is possible on the site and how we can best integrate the community's needs and desires with PWSA's water retention plans.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH GLASSBRENNER

From Sarah Steers

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the worst of the COVID-19 crisis has passed and we're all feeling less scared and more normal. Over the past few weeks, many parents have had to suddenly step in to the role of "teacher." Now that summer vacation is on the horizon, how can a parent keep their children interested in learning so the 2020-2021 school year doesn't start off on the wrong foot?

Of course, reading is key. Find topics or characters that your kid thinks are interesting, and encourage them to read as much as they want. Many parents are familiar with free resources available on Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org), but there are also fun, age-appropriate lessons on Crash Course (<https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse>) and IXL (www.ixl.com). Some websites are geared for younger children, but CommonLit (www.commonlit.org/en)

provides resources for students through the 12th grade. DuLingo (www.duolingo.com) is also an engaging foreign language program appropriate for any age (although it can definitely get challenging)!

Many teachers also stress that interactive Montessori-style toys can be helpful for young kids – and some can be made at home. Think of colorful or tactile flashcards filled with letters, words, numbers, or simple math problems! Families can also make tracing boards, homemade play-dough (or slime!), and blocks.

I'm not suggesting these resources take the place of a teacher – far from it. But hopefully a few of these tutoring tools will help children stay interested in learning until they can head back into their classrooms.

From Joe Brown

Each year the 27th Ward of Pittsburgh has honored the fallen heroes of the 27th Ward with a dedication program on Memorial Day held at Legion Park on Brighton Road in Brighton Heights. A diverse group of dedicated volunteers – many of them Veterans of Foreign Wars themselves – get together to plan the program for each year.

Overseen by Commander Pete Galinowski American Legion Post #681, Joe Brown Coordinator American Legion Post #81, The Brightwood Civic Group, and sponsored by The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation. The Memorial Day planning Committee places flags on fallen heroes gravesites in Highwood Cemetery in Brightwood on the Friday prior to Memorial Day while also paying tribute to Commando Charles Kelly whose final resting place is Highwood Cemetery.

Folks, this year is quite different as we are at war with an unseen enemy forcing cancellations and delaying some of our favorite events. The Committee has not made any decisions at this time to cancel either the placing of the flags on Friday May 22 at 9:00 a.m. or the Memorial Day Program on May 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Legion Memorial Park. However we will follow the advice of the CDC and local health officials at the given time to assure everyone's health and well-being. Please visit www.brightonheights.org for updates under the Activities Tab – Memorial Day Celebration. Updates will also be posted on Facebook and Nextdoor sites.

In the meantime, we wish everyone well-being and safety. Please follow the advice of the health officials and stay calm as we work together. It is our hopes this will all end soon and we can all get on with our lives.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH GLASSBRENNER

Councilman Wilson talks monuments with Donna Kramer (BHCF Board Member) and Joe Brown (American Legion Post No. 81) on February 17, 2020, in Legion Memorial Park.

Garden and Greenspaces Update

By Ed Gergerich

It is late March as I write this, knowing that it will be early May when most of you are reading this.

Many businesses are now closed, and most events have been canceled or delayed. Folks are staying home or practicing social isolation. My crystal ball is no better than anyone else's. I don't know if things will improve or get worse in the next weeks, but one thing I can guarantee is that **SPRING HAS NOT BEEN CANCELED** and summer is rumored to follow. Currently, crocuses, daffodils and forsythia are in bloom. By the time you read this, these early bloomers will be done and be replaced by other perennial blooms. Mother Nature is a tough old broad!

In May, we have a bunch of volunteer work days open for our community gardens. We are asking residents to volunteer at their own scheduled time given the CDC and government mandates. Please contact garden directors by phone to schedule an individual volunteer time. Of course, if you are sick or have compromised immunity, please stay home. However, if you are healthy and have been confined indoors for a few weeks, you may need a positive activity to keep up your spirits.

In case you were naughty and didn't mark your calendars after the March newsletter, here are our current May dates:

- **SATURDAY, MAY 2** is planting at the WPC Garden at PA 65 and Brighton Heights Blvd. We will be planting and mulching rudbeckia, zinnia and Dusty Miller.
- **SATURDAY, MAY 9** is prep day at Legion Park and the 3 Termon and California Avenue gardens. We will be transplanting perennials and ornamental grasses, trimming shrubs, and preparing the flower beds for planting.
- **THURSDAY, MAY 14** is delivery of our annual flowers from Mussig's Greenhouse. (Yes, they are still operating.) Thank you to who ordered flowers from BHCF for their own gardens. Delivery to you will be on May 14 or 15.
- **SATURDAY, MAY 16** is planting at Legion Park and the T&C 3.
- **SATURDAY, MAY 23** we will have a catch-up day for things we didn't get done in the previous weeks at Legion Park, the T&C 3 and/or any of our other gardens.

All of these Saturdays will open at 9 a.m. for scheduling. Landscaping is a project you can complete, gardening is never done. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring your own work gloves, drinking water, and hand tools. Some tasks will require digging or a bit of strength, but we will have tasks for all levels of expertise. If you have bad knees or a bad back, we will have some jobs that do not require kneeling or bending such as pruning or sanitizing tool handles. It would be nice to have someone photographing the activities. It will help all of us keep our sense of community.

Please don't feel confined to just Saturdays in May or to just the 5 gardens mentioned above. For example, we could use people to adopt the McClure rock garden across from Young's Tavern or the planter boxes at the Kaboom Playground. We will have plants or seeds for you to work with. All of the gardens will be going until the first killing frost. Get active at a community garden near you.

You should also know that we have marigold and zinnia seeds saved from last year's gardens and will have some perennial and ornamental grass transplants available to "brighten" (pun intended) your own personal gardens and greenspaces. Prep your garden beds as soon as the weather allows. During these challenging times, let's make Brighton Heights bloom!

(Cue inspirational closing music "America, the beautiful ... from seed to shining seed")



Brighton Heights Adopt-A-Block Program

I want to share with you an easy way to make a difference in our neighborhood. It's called Adopt-A-Block and it is very simple. It doesn't take a lot of time and has immediate results and instant gratification!

The purpose of Adopt-A-Block Program is to organize individuals and organizations to keep sidewalks, parking lots and green spaces free of litter and debris. We are looking for volunteers to clean-up one or more blocks or a section of a street on a weekly or bi-weekly basis from March through November.

We need the most volunteers for the main entry points to Brighton Heights: McClure Ave, Brighton Road, California Avenue, Benton Avenue and Brighton Heights Blvd. If you can sign up to help with one of those streets on a weekly or bi-weekly basis that would be a tremendous help!

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation will provide trash and recycle bags if requested. We can also provide orange vests and gloves.

Your participation in this litter pick-up initiative will improve the beauty and livability of our wonderful Brighton Heights neighborhood. To find out more or to get on the volunteer list, please contact Tim Maloney.

Thank you for helping to keep our neighborhood clean!

CONTACT: Tim Maloney

PHONE: 412-726-0800

EMAIL: dirtdoctim@msn.com



Update on the House Tour

We are still planning for the House Tour in September, hoping we pull through the pandemic by that point. Among some of the features for the tour, we will once again be showcasing Legion Park as the center of activity, allowing for a self-guided tour from there. A mailing will be sent out by June 1, requesting home volunteers. Normally this soliciting of homes is done on foot throughout the neighborhood, but will be handled as a mailing this year due to social distancing. Among the perks for volunteered homes on the tour will be a free house cleaning provided by BHCF, before or after the tour—homeowner's choice. Additional information is to come, and will be posted under the committees tab on the BHCF website. The House Tour will only be possible if we can get enough commitments from homeowners willing to open their homes. Please contact Seth or Danny through the Federation office if you are interested in having your house on the tour in September, the exact date is still to be determined.

Thanks,

Seth and Danny



Residents in Brighton Heights following new CDC guidelines by forming a staggered line on the sidewalks of The California Avenue Business District on Saturday, March 28, 2020.

State Representative Adam Ravenstahl

(D) Allegheny | www.pahouse.com/Ravenstahl

Neighbors,

I hope that this letter finds you, your families and your friends in good health. We find ourselves in uncharted territory – taking drastic measures to slow the spread of a deadly virus through our community.

I know that many of the actions the state has taken have been difficult. Businesses have been forced to close and many of us have lost jobs or had our hours reduced. It feels like every day there is something new and that in these unsettled times – even as we are told to stay home – we cannot relax.

I want you to know that you are not alone. I want you to know that you are a member of our community, our region, our state. I want you to know that across Allegheny County and Pennsylvania, men and women are stepping up, are answering the call of this moment. I want you to know that we are marshaling the resources of our commonwealth to ensure that those who need help get it, and that those who are affected by this virus will have the care they need.

We are bringing community resources online to help families, organizing capital to help businesses and organizations large and small, and are cutting red tape to help health care professionals get the tools and help they need.

If you have questions, or need help, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and my staff. You can reach us by email or by phone; please, if you call, **LEAVE US A MESSAGE** and we will get back to you.

I love the Pittsburgh region. I grew up here and know well the legacy of our past – one of building, of creating the steel that underpins the greatness of our nation. And I have faith that when this darkness passes, we will once again show the world how we get things done.

Stay strong. Stay safe.

Remember: my office is always here for you to help you with any state-related issues you may have. Please feel free to stop by the district office on California Avenue or call us.

PHONE: 412-321-5523

ADDRESS: 3689 California Ave., Pittsburgh 15212

EMAIL: RepRavenstahl@pahouse.net

Primary Election Update

From VotesPA.com

On March 27, Governor Wolf signed Senate Bill 422, which reschedules Pennsylvania's primary election from April 28 to June 2 due to the COVID-19 emergency. Voters have the option to vote by mail-in ballot rather than going to their polling place on election day. Mail-in ballot applications will be accepted through Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

What are mail ballots?

In Pennsylvania, you now have two options for mail ballots. You may either choose a mail-in ballot or an absentee ballot to request, complete, and return to your county election office.

- **Absentee Ballot**

If you plan to be out of the municipality on election day or if you have a disability or illness, you should request this ballot type, which still requires you to list a reason for your ballot.

- **Mail-in Ballot**

If you aren't an absentee voter, you may apply for a mail-in ballot. You may simply request this ballot without a reason.

In order to request either ballot type, you must be registered to vote. Please visit www.votespa.com to review your registration information and get a mail-in or absentee ballot. If you do not have internet access, please contact:

CONTACT: Allegheny County Elections Division

ADDRESS: 542 Forbes Avenue, Suite 604

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

PHONE: (412) 350-4500



PHOTO BY KHARA WOODS ON UNSPLASH



HELEN WEHNER

(AUGUST 5, 1921 – MARCH 2, 2020)

The Brighton Heights community lost an icon in March. Helen Wehner lived to be 98 years young. We remember her as an extraordinary woman who was a proud Oliver High School graduate helping to organize many reunions. She moved to Brighton Heights when she married the late Norbert Wehner and they bought the home she loved on West Point Avenue, her center of the neighborhood until the day she died there.

Early in her marriage she worked at Stouffers Restaurant on Penn Avenue where she earned the reputation of a most engaging hostess, a talent she nourished and displayed for many years in her own home. She loved politics and campaigned and worked for her favorites, especially the former mayor, Tom Murphy. She volunteered many places in the community: Little Sisters of the Poor, St John's Hospital, and St Cyril's Church to name a few. She became active in the newly formed Brighton Heights Citizens Federation in the 1970's where she worked on the May Children's Festivals and the Halloween parades, flower planting and neighborhood clean-ups and any other project that came along.

Most of us remember Helen when she served for years as the neighborhood representative for Brighton Heights on the North Side Leadership Conference. She was on the Board of Directors of the Federation so many years that she was voted in as a "Director Emeritus", along with Gert Long, in the 1990's.

Helen was the mother of David, Helen, and Elizabeth, and she had six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Here are a few excerpts from a moving eulogy given at St Cyril's Church by Helen's granddaughter, Colleen Collins on March 6, 2020:

"Whether you knew her as Mrs. Wehner, Helen, Mom, Nan, Aunt Helen, or any other name, she undoubtedly left an indelible mark on you ... Her door was open to all, everyone was welcome at her table as she was genuine, warm, and generous ... She was a woman with a plan, and she had lists about lists, because she has so much to organize and remember ...

"She had a never-ending supply of paper plates and watermelon ... She was the neighbor who opened her pool for the kids down the street ... She gave her grandchildren pennies so they could walk down the street to Linden Market to buy candy. She was the smiling patron of Rose's Bakery and always had cookies on hand for guests. She loved the jokes and limericks in the Reader's Digest ...

"She was the light in every room, the beacon of hope on a cloudy day, and the undefinable source of comfort to all who needed her. Her positive energy poured out of her, and today the world is a little less light, and infinitely sadder without her presence in it ... She taught us all about life, love, kindness, hospitality, and joy."

MINUTES

Review of Previous General Membership Meeting

March 12, 2020

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Minutes from the January 9, 2020, General Membership meeting were approved without corrections.

Special Guests:

Pittsburgh Police

Sgt. Mike Burford

Sgt. Burford reported on the wellbeing of an officer recently shot on the job and presented crime statistics for the recent month. He updated members on several incidents and spoke of Zone 1's participation in Pittsburgh Morrow's new student engagement program tentatively called Safe Passages.

Safe Passages

Cecilia Ware

Cecilia, Vice President of the Northside Public Safety Council, introduced a new school, police and community diversion program called Safe Passages which aims to reduce student misbehavior in school and the neighborhood while increasing student achievement and well-being. She detailed the resources the school and police are organizing and encouraged volunteers from the community to participate in order to make this effort successful. Some members present are already on-board with the program.

Pittsburgh Morrow

Principal Michael Calvert

Principal Calvert introduced himself to the membership and detailed his background and what educational values he is putting in place at the school. He is seeking a partnership with the community in order to make Morrow even more successful. He took member questions including what a "community school" designation entails and encouraged all to communicate with him on any concerns.

City Councilman Bobby Wilson

Mohammed Burny

Mohammed briefed members on the City's response to the COVID -19 virus pandemic which was changing rapidly due to its spread. All were urged to take common sense measures. He also reported on the first traffic calming project in the Councilman's district as well as our petition submittal for one in the 3200 block of California Avenue. The Councilman also witnessed the traffic issues involving student pickup/drop off at Pittsburgh Morrow and is working to reinstate a traffic permit for a better plan.

Report of Officers and Others:

President's Report

Joseph Glassbrenner

Joe reported on the success of the recent Christmas tree mulch program and the Riverview Park-Grand Street entrance design project.

Vice President

Brendan Delaney

Brendan had no report.

Corresponding Secretary

Kate Kelley

Kate encouraged all to inform the Federation of community events so we can take advantage of our website, newsletter and social media outlets.

Treasurer's Report

Gretchen Serra

Net Worth Report – As of 2/29/20

<i>Assets — Cash and Bank Accounts</i>	
Monument	1,637.63
Wesbanco OP Acct	12,897.01
SSB OP Acct	31,850.51
State Grant Acct	890.81
United Way	781.88
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$48,057.84

A motion to accept was approved.

Report of Committees:

NSLC

John Belch and Vince Pallus

John reported on a new anti-littering steering committee initiative which will involve many partners and Tim Maloney has agreed to represent BHCF on the committee.

Neighborhood Safety Committee

Donna Kramer

Donna reported that the April city-wide Public Safety Council meeting has been postponed.

Families, Youth and Children Committee

Kate Kelley

Kate reported that her committee will be working mainly with Cecilia Ware and her new Safe Passages initiative.

Gardens and Greenspaces

Ed Gergerich and Stacey Roa

Ed Gergerich reported on the flower sale which benefits the Federation and on the garden works days scheduled for May.

Clean-up

Tim Maloney

Tim reported on the spring cleanup day April 25 which will once again be a cooperative effort with Brightwood Association. It will start at the BHCF office at 9am and end with a BBQ at Young Brothers.

House Tour

Seth McClarey and Daniel Phistry

Daniel reported that the committee has retired the chocolate theme and that new marketing and activities are planned. Houses are being sought. The date will stay in September.

Land Use

Alex Carrera

As the new chair, Alex reported that he is getting up to speed on our housing projects and hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

Memorial Day

Joe Brown

Donna Kramer reported that plans are ongoing for May 25 and meetings are open to all who are interested. You can contact Joe at 412-758-6112. Volunteers are needed for the picnic to be held at St. Cyril's church.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Anything for the Good of the Federation

The next General Membership meeting will be May 14, 2020.

The 50/50 Raffle prize of \$18 was won by Tom Kaylor.

Approximately 40 persons attended.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

John Belch

Last Page Laugh

By Tom Kaylor

How did the Easter Bunny feel the day after Easter?

So *EGG*hausted he almost *DYED*, but *HOPPY* it was over.



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

THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST VIA ZOOM. VISIT WWW.BRIGHTONHEIGHTS.ORG FOR DETAILS.

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