



# BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 51  
ISSUE 1

## CITIZENS REPORT

January 2021



### Happy New Year!

by Danielle Graham-Robinson

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation is ready to start off the New Year with hope, optimism and even more ways to create community engagement and some helpful reminders about who we are, what we do, and why it is so important for **YOU** to get involved!

BHCF is a community-based organization and 501c3, with a small office located at 3629 California Avenue, in between Pops and Sons Pizza, and California Cycle Path. We have been an active community organization since 1967! Our Board of Directors is a diverse group of talented, committed individuals whose years of service range from 1 to 25!

The Board of Directors meet monthly to address various community needs, report on committees, and address general issues for the good of the Federation.

We also have a robust community of paid members who attend General Membership meetings every other month (lately via Zoom!), vote on board members and important issues, and often volunteer throughout the year at any number of our events or initiatives. When you receive your newsletter, take a look at the date after your name on the address label. That date reflects the month and year that your membership expires. You may still be receiving a newsletter with an expired membership (we're softies like that), so please consider renewing your membership as soon as possible. You can do so by visiting: <http://www.brightonheights.org/about-us/membership-donations> OR you can mail in your renewal with the half sheet on the back of this newsletter. When you renew, consider inviting a neighbor to join, too!

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.

Visit [brightonheights.org](http://brightonheights.org) for meeting details.

p. 2 President's Report	p. 3 BHCF Information List	p. 5 Updates from BHCF	p. 6 Bright the Night Review	p. 6 State Rep-Elect Kinkead	p. 7 Councilman Bobby Wilson	p. 8 Brighton Birders	p. 9 2021 BHCF Calendar	p. 10 Review of Last General Meeting
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## From the Federation President

by Joseph Glassbrenner

I want to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! 2020 had its share of challenges for our organization as well as

everyone around the world. One can never plan for a global pandemic but what we can do is show resilience and persistence in the face of adversity and that's what we did! We banded together and put differences aside to understand with clarity that we are in this together. I was proud to see neighbors helping neighbors. Many stores providing aid as well as new resources created from public, private, and nonprofits alike. I'd like to thank and recognize all the volunteers who helped the Brighton Heights Citizens Federations this past year. 2021 will surely provide more opportunities to volunteer on a committee or at a scheduled event that may interest you. Please call **412-734-0233** or email **BHCFpgh@gmail.com** for more information about joining a Committee.

The 2020 Bright the Night Celebration looked different than most years but I am grateful the event was modified instead of canceled in entirety. Danielle Graham-Robinson and Donna Kramer put their heads together to create an event that could still spread holiday cheer without the risk of spreading germs. The list of homes, businesses, and places of worship was a great idea for everyone to become involved. It was very enjoyable to have a list of decorated places to drive by with my family. Seeing the lights and efforts residents put forth added more joy to my season and I hope yours too.

The November elections results are in. I'd like to congratulate those board members who won re-election and welcome newly elected Board Member Stacy Berkebile. I look forward to working together with our new elect as well as our re-elected members. I must recognize two members who have

decided to step down after a much respected tenure on the BHCF Board of Directors. Dave Lebec and Stacey Roa have decided not to seek re-election. Although they will no longer serve on the Board both have agreed to stay active community members. Stacey thank you for the work you have done with the flower sales and always volunteering in Garden efforts. Stacey has also been much involved with the Land Use Committee as well as Co-chair of the Halloween Parade. Dave has been involved at all General Membership meetings as well as adding insight at Board meetings. Dave has agreed to remain the Editor of the newsletter. Thank you to both of you for your contributions to the BHCF.

I would also like to recognize a decorated list of individuals from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police for their attendance at the November General Membership Meeting. Chief Scott Shubert recapped his door-to-door effort of communicating and meeting directly with Brighton Heights residents during a time Brighton Heights saw an uptick in gun violence. The Chief reassured the membership that the Bureau was working diligently to increase the safety of all residents and stated "We're here with you and we're not going anywhere." Commander Victor Joseph provided crime stats and fielded numerous questions. Commander also commended residents for how they "Rallied around the situation to provide us with information [for investigations]." Lieutenant William Fleske took crime tips from a number of residents and provided them with ways to streamline future tips to the department. Sergeant Michael Burford answered specific questions and also wins the award for Perfect Attendance by making every BHCF General Membership Meeting in 2020. I'd like to thank these men and the entire force for working around the clock to keep our streets safe.

The January General Membership meeting will be held again via Zoom. It will take place on January 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Please check the BHCF website at [brightonheights.org](http://brightonheights.org) for the link and more information. I encourage everyone to attend.

**Again I want to wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year and as always I'll see you in the Neighborhood.**

## Neighborhood Crime Information

If any member of the BHCF 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 January.

- 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 January.

**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.

## BHCF Board of Directors:

### Officers

President: Joseph Glassbrenner  
Vice President: Brendan Delaney  
Treasurer: Gretchen Serra  
Corresponding Sec: Kate Kelley  
Recording Secretary: John Belch

### Directors

Stacy Berkebile, Alex Carrera, Monique Flowers, Elaine Gloeckner, Bill Goodrich, Danielle Graham-Robinson, Janice Johns-Engelman, Donna Kramer, Tim Maloney, Raymond Robinson

## The United Way #188

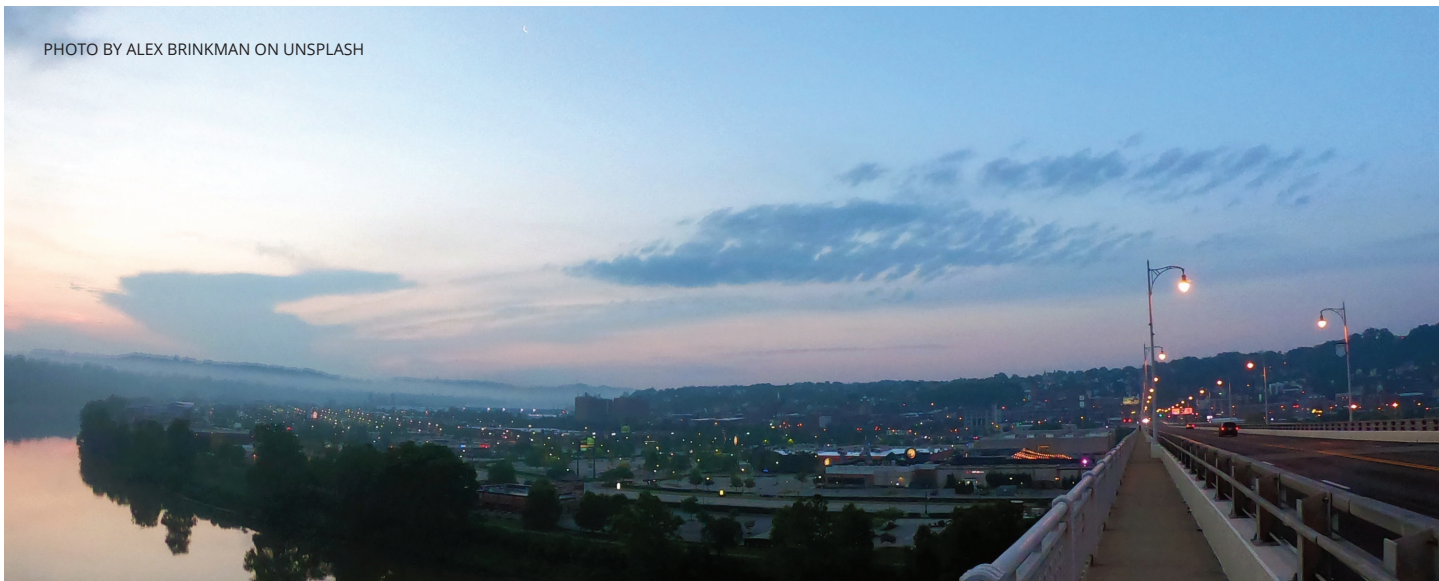
Brighton Heights Citizens Federation is a United Way agency. You can make a donation to the Federation by choosing #188 on your donation form. All United Way donations are used exclusively for children's activities such as the Halloween Parade.

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](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 February 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

Subscribe to our e-newsletter and receive your Brighton Heights updates by email. You can either go to <http://eepurl.com/R7xc5> and fill out the form, or you can email us at [bhcfpgh@gmail.com](mailto:bhcfpgh@gmail.com) with your name, email, home address, and phone number, and we'll add you to the list! If you are fancy, scan the QR code to the right and fill out the form.



## 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](mailto:ons@buhlfoundation.org).

BHCF achieves its goal to make Brighton Heights a great place to live, through committees that are led by volunteers that may or may not be on the Board. Our most active committees are: The Annual House Tour, Bright the Night, The Halloween Parade, Public Safety, Land Use, Memorial Day, Adopt a Block/Community Clean Up, Garden and Greenspaces, and Family/Youth/Children. Volunteers are encouraged to get involved with any or all of the committees that spark your interest. If you have an idea or see a need in the community that is not being addressed, you are invited to join any of the committees mentioned, or you could also propose to lead a new committee!

BHCF has a Facebook page and website where we regularly post our calendar of events, community-related information, volunteer opportunities and more. We also publish this newsletter that is sent to all of our dues-paying members, and is digitally posted to our website and Facebook page. We invite you to submit articles to the newsletter on topics that may be of interest to your neighbors, whether it be a safety concern, some good news, or something that you have expertise in that you want to share! Keep reading this newsletter for details about how to submit an article!

An important detail to remember about this very active organization is that it is 100% volunteer-led. So the more hands we have to help reach our goals, the more successful we will be as an organization and as a community!

We look forward to **MAKING A DIFFERENCE with you** in 2021!



## A Message from the BHCF Board of Directors

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation Board of Directors would like to sincerely apologize for exposing the Federation's members, neighbors and friends to the offensive language and disrespectful behavior of an individual in attendance at the November General Membership Zoom Meeting, held on November 12, 2020. Please know this type of behavior will not be tolerated. As a Board, we are working diligently to ensure future meetings are conducted in a welcoming, respectful and safe environment for everyone in attendance.

## Bylaw Update

The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation has had to adapt to pandemic life, just like many of you. We have worked on new ways of conducting business and we've also had to shift the needs we address in our community. One example is how we conduct meetings. We have moved all of our Board meetings and General Membership meetings to a remote format to follow CDC guidelines. Since this is a new process, we want to make sure taking attendance, voting, discussions, and all formalities are handled correctly, in accordance with our own bylaws and according to PA state laws.

After a contested vote and discussion at the November General Membership meeting on changes to our bylaws to allow remote meetings, votes, and attendance requirements, we decided to table the motion and consult with other community groups in our situation. After consulting, we decided it would be better to create relevant policies for the General Membership's understanding. These new policies will clarify issues regarding virtual meetings, attendance, and voting.

Thank you for your patience as we work on drafting a new policy to present in 2021.

## Results of the November Board of Directors Election

As described in the November newsletter at their October meeting, the Board of Directors passed a motion to have the November Board of Directors election conducted by mail, using a ballot contained in the November newsletter. Ballots were sent to those eligible to vote, containing the names of the seven candidates for the five Board of Director positions.

The five candidates with the most votes were Stacey Berkebile, Bill Goodrich, Danielle Graham-Robinson, Janice Johns-Engelman, and Donna Kramer. Thanks to all of the candidates for participating in the election, as well as all of those who took the time to vote in the election.



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



## State Representative-Elect Emily Kinkead

Happy New Year, Brighton Heights!

I am Emily Kinkead, your new State Representative for District 20.

As I considered what to write to you, I thought about all the things that will be new this year – new President, new vaccines, new normal.

Still, many of the challenges we faced in 2020 have followed us into the New Year – Covid-19: Massive unemployment, struggling neighbors and businesses, loss of our sense of safety with the senseless killing of Ernest Mills, Jr. For many reasons, we could give into despair.

Nevertheless, I enter 2021 with a sense of hope. At every turn, our community has come together in the face of tragedy. In the face of disease, we saw volunteers rush to provide aid. In the face of hunger, we saw our community donate from their own diminished supplies. In the face of violence, we saw our neighborhood come together to seek peace.

We have serious problems to solve and new challenges will come. But 2020 showed us all our resiliency, and I am proud to work with you to secure the resources and systemic changes that we need not just to survive but to thrive.

By the time you read this, our physical office, now located at **433 E. Ohio St.** will be available for in-person service (subject to Covid protocols). You can also reach my office by email at [RepKinkead@pahouse.net](mailto:RepKinkead@pahouse.net) or by phone at **412-321-5523**.

In grateful service,  
Emily Kinkead  
*State Representative, District 20*

## Bright the Night in Review

by Danielle Graham Robinson

It would be hard to argue that 2020 hasn't taught all the lessons possible in adaptation! For "Bright the Night 2020", for example, we had to figure out a way to honor traditions while maintaining a safe environment for our neighborhood to enjoy the season and support local businesses. We did that by enlisting YOU to decorate your homes, apartments, businesses, and houses of worship for the first ever "Let's Get Lit Decorated House Tour! We had over 50 submissions of willing decorators, and a whole neighborhood which had something to smile about. It was so very needed, and so very appreciated. I hope that as you drove your families or friend pods around the neighborhood, you shared many "oohs and ahhs", got some laughs, and were even spiritually inspired. Lights can do all of that! While I certainly enjoyed seeing the plethora of creativity, I do hope to see you all at an IN-PERSON Bright the Night in 2021!

Special thanks to:

- Joe Glassbrenner (BHCF President and in-house electrician!), Donna Kramer (our longtime BHCF volunteer), and Rick Quigley from "Let's Cut a Deal Tree Service" for lighting the big tree in Legion Park.
- Preston Comfort, Ashley Fernandez, Josh Nard, Raymond Robinson, Hilary Brown and Robyn Young for their assistance and inspiration in decorating Legion Park and California Avenue.
- Beth Smith for bringing the inspirational magic and "YES, LET'S GET LIT" spirit and partnership for the Decorated House Tour!!
- Special thanks to New Sun Rising and the \$1000 One Northside mini-grant that helped us accomplish our pandemic minded, Bright the Night!
- Lastly, thanks to anyone else who helps after this newsletter goes to print! **LOVE YINZ ALL!**

## From Councilman Bobby Wilson

Hello everyone, I hope everyone had a joyous and safe holiday season! As we start 2021, I'd like to look back on the work we did in my first year as your Councilman. Though COVID-19 tried to slow us down, 2020 was a busy year. My staff and I worked with over 450 residents on all types of concerns in their neighborhoods. I was especially proud to have partnered with Cityview Church and the University of Pittsburgh to distribute essential needs packages to local senior high-rises when these items were difficult to come by. Whether constituents reached out by phone, email, or social media, we've done our best to follow up with everyone every time and work to get their questions answered or their issues resolved. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve you, and I'd like to take a moment to share some of the highlights of what we've accomplished in the Northside so far.

One of the most common asks from my Council District 1 was for traffic calming measures. These are steps the City's Department of Mobility & Infrastructure (DOMI) takes to slow down speeding cars. Many of you will think of speed humps as the most obvious traffic calming measures, but there are many other things, like restriping lanes, painting crosswalks, or adding bump-outs, that the City can do to make a fast street slower. Our first traffic calming project happened on Venture Street in Observatory Hill. There, DOMI installed a series of speed humps to slow cars as they came down the hill through the residential neighborhood to get on I-279. These speed humps cost \$47,000 and the process for getting them installed started in October 2019, when we helped a concerned resident apply for traffic calming for Venture Street through DOMI's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program (<https://pittsburghpa.gov/domi/traffic-calming>). The speed humps were installed in August of 2020, and everything we learned about getting such measures to slow down speeding cars has been put to good use launching over a dozen other traffic calming projects. Of these, the most important project is the one to slow down cars on California Avenue in your neighborhood. California Avenue is very unsafe because people drive way too fast. There were several scary accidents on that road just in the last six months. Right now, I am working with DOMI to have a planner come with me to your community group's meeting this month to explain what the City shall do to slow cars down and make California Avenue safer. I am also working with Zone 1 Police to take immediate steps to deter speeding on California Avenue until DOMI can install some traffic calming measures on that road.

When I was campaigning for City Council, I had hundreds of conversations with Northsiders about paving. I know how aggravating it can be to drive a road that has long been neglected, and as soon as paving season began last spring, I

got in my car and drove every Northside street on the paving list. The City spent \$1.9 million on paving in the District last spring and summer. There is plenty of paving left to do, and we still have a long list of paving requests that we will work to fulfill during this year's paving season.

Dealing with paving also taught me the importance of managing stormwater if we want to maintain our roads and hillsides. If we do not control where water flows, then it will cause landslides on our properties and erode our roads. Dealing with stormwater requires working with DOMI, the Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority. Building relationships with the directors and staffs of all these agencies allowed me to solve multiple stormwater issues for residents in Summer Hill, Spring Hill, and Wyona Way right here in Brighton Heights by adding catch basins, regrading street surfaces, and installing wedge curbs.

As many of you know, landslides have been a huge problem in the Northside. Thanks to the advocacy of the Friends of Riverview Park, Mayor Peduto prioritized \$1.8 million for landslide repairs in our great regional park. We will first repair the landslide that caused Riverview Avenue by the Chapel Shelter to crumble. Also, I asked that the Northside's 34 parks be put on a more regular maintenance schedule, which resulted in the addition of six DPW crew members to the Northern Division.

Finally, I am proud to announce the allocation of \$60,000 in Public Service grants to organizations that provide essential services across the Northside. Recipients of these grants included Cityview Church, Northside Common Ministries Food Pantry, Sarah Heinz House, Northside Chamber of Commerce, and the Northside Chronicle. I was also pleased to allocate \$80,000 in Neighborhood Economic Development grants to boost the development of affordable housing in the Northside.

If you have any other questions or concerns, call us, email us, or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. My staff and I look forward to hearing from you in 2021!

**CONTACT:** Bobby Wilson, Councilman, District 1

**PHONE:** 412-255-2135

**EMAIL:** [district1@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:district1@pittsburghpa.gov)



## Brighton Birders

by Hilary Brown

While my husband and I were in the first year of dating, we both realized that we both had a love for birds. It wasn't a formal hobby for either of us at the time, but we started to slowly dabble, and signed up for a birding hike with the Audubon Society that fall. We purchased binoculars the night before and showed up excited! We quickly learned two things. First, all those little brown birds that you think you see in the tree, are oftentimes colorful and exotic when you see them through binoculars. Second, we learned that we were terrible at birding. The people on this hike knew bird songs and behavior, and could spot them very easily because they understood all of those things. We, – well, mostly me – missed 75% of the birds that everyone else was seeing. Frustrated for sure, I was still inspired by all the life that is constantly surrounding us whether we can see it or not.

That was about three years ago, and since then we have gone through a few migration seasons and have learned quite a bit about birds. As someone who wasn't much for the outdoors, looks terrible in earth tones, has never had a hobby and could be a touch impatient, I was taken aback by how much I loved it. Birding is paying attention, taking things slowly, and looking closely. You learn not just about birds, but also seasons, flowers, plants, and the environment.

Birds are an incredible indicator species that can tell us, generally speaking, how healthy our world is. Being able to see birds in Pittsburgh that have traveled from far away places like South America has been thrilling. I have also learned photography which has made the hobby especially fun. While we have seen some awesome birds in Riverview Park, Frick Park is a serious birding hot spot and a good way to get started. You will often see a birder or two, who are often more than willing to share what they saw that day and where. There are many times that we have gone out for a hike without seeing interesting birds, but it is never a waste. I think it does something good for the soul to just walk, look, and listen to the world around us.

## Gardens and Greenspaces

by Ed Gergerich

Happy New Year! Thanks to all who ordered poinsettias and wreaths from our BHCF Holiday sale. Special kudos goes to Jena Simpson and Stacey Roa who organized and ran the project.

Thanks also to the folks who came out to help with the fall cleanup on the Greenup and Adams Lots. Along with other tasks, we planted the last of the spring bulbs that we got from the Phipps Conservancy amid the lambs ears on the Greenup Lot. A mystery was that several of the pots contained only soil and shells. I realized later that these were tulip bulbs that our local squirrels had dined on during the summer. Fortunately, these critters don't like daffodil bulbs so we should see these bloom early next spring.

While the gardens are dormant in winter, there are always some nice days in late winter or early spring. Use these to pick up litter or dig an occasional weed. Or simply plan your 2021 garden. I have a plaque that states "Nature does not hurry yet everything is accomplished" Lao Tau.

2021 will be better than 2020, you can plant on it.

**Stay safe, stay green.**

## Safety, Please

by Danielle Graham Robinson

This last year has no doubt been extremely challenging for children and teens who are limited in being able to just be kids, but we need to make sure that no child in Brighton Heights needlessly dies in the name of being a kid or having fun. I am writing this because I personally came within inches of running over two small children this fall who were both riding a mini-motorcycle on the wrong side of the road, at night, with no helmets, and no lights. Their saving grace was that I am a notoriously slow driver on back streets, which can't be said for many drivers. It was a terrifying ordeal for both of us, but the kids sped off before I could talk to them about it.

Technically, in Pennsylvania, those really fun looking mini motorized bikes and small scooters are most likely not street legal, and should only be ridden on private property, with expressed permission from the property owner. If children in your care are going to ride **ANY** bikes, motorized or not, legal or not, with two, three, or four wheels (I'm really not judging!) please, please, please consider at least putting some bike lights, reflective clothing, and helmets on the kids. It takes very little to do lasting, or God forbid, lethal damage to a human head and bones!

Cheers to a happy and safe 2021!! For information about non-motorized bicycle safety that may carry over, we have a great resource in Pittsburgh at <https://bikepgh.org/ride-safe/>



# 2021 CALENDAR

JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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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
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28						

Feb. 2 ..... Groundhog Day  
 Feb. 4 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Feb. 12 ..... Chinese New Year  
 Feb. 14 ..... Valentine's Day  
 Feb. 15 ..... President's Day  
 Feb. 17 ..... Ash Wednesday  
 Feb. 26 ..... Purim

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Mar. 4 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Mar. 11 ..... General Membership Meeting  
 Mar. 14 ..... Daylight Savings Begins  
 Mar. 17 ..... St. Patrick's Day  
 Mar. 20 ..... First Day of Spring  
 Mar. 28 ..... Palm Sunday/Passover Begins

APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Apr. 1 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Apr. 1 ..... Maundy Thursday  
 Apr. 2 ..... Good Friday  
 Apr. 4 ..... Easter Sunday  
 Apr. 12 ..... Ramadan Begins  
 Apr. 15 ..... Taxes Due  
 Apr. 22 ..... Earth Day  
 Apr. 24 ..... BHCf Spring Clean-up\*  
 Apr. 30 ..... Orthodox Good Friday

MAY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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May 1 ..... Orthodox Holy Saturday  
 May 2 ..... Orthodox Easter  
 May 6 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 May 8 ..... Rt 65 WPACons Planting\*  
 May 9 ..... Mother's Day  
 May 13 ..... General Membership Meeting  
 May 15 ..... Prep Day Flower Planting\*  
 May 20 ..... Flower Delivery Day\*  
 May 22 ..... Spring Flower Planting\*  
 May 28 ..... Flag Planting Highwood Cem.\*  
 May 29 ..... Gardening Day\*  
 May 31 ..... Memorial Day

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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27	28	29	30			

Jun. 3 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Jun. 20 ..... First Day of Summer  
 Jun. 20 ..... Father's Day

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Jul. 4 ..... Independence Day  
 \*\* NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING \*\*

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Aug. 5 ..... Board of Directors Meeting

SEPTEMBER						
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		

Sep. 2 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Sep. 6 ..... Labor Day  
 Sep. 6 ..... Rosh Hashanah  
 Sep. 9 ..... General Membership Meeting  
 Sep. 15 ..... Yom Kippur  
 Sep. 22 ..... First Day of Autumn

OCTOBER						
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

Oct. 7 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Oct. 11 ..... Columbus Day  
 Oct. 16 ..... Fall Clean-up\*  
 Oct. 30 ..... BHCf 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. 2 ..... Election Day  
 Nov. 4 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Nov. 7 ..... Daylight Savings Time Ends  
 Nov. 11 ..... Veteran's Day  
 Nov. 11 ..... Gen. Membership Meeting/Election  
 Nov. 25 ..... Thanksgiving  
 Nov. 28 ..... Hannukah Begins

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. 2 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Dec. 11 ..... Bright the Night with Santa\*  
 Dec. 21 ..... First Day of Winter  
 Dec. 24 ..... Christmas Eve  
 Dec. 25 ..... Christmas  
 Dec. 26 ..... Kwanzaa Begins  
 Dec. 31 ..... New Year's Eve

Thanks to Joan Bellisario, we have a new activities calendar for 2021.

If you have any events that you would like to include on the 2022 calendar, please send them to us by the end of this year.

\* All dates noted here are tentative and subject to cancellation or change; however, we are hopeful that we can conduct business as usual at some point in the year.

# MINUTES

## Review of Previous General Membership Meeting

*Due to the restrictions during the COVID -19 pandemic, this meeting was held online using the Zoom platform. The public was invited to participate via computer or phone by a notice in the newsletter, website and social media accounts.*

### November 12, 2020

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Minutes from the September 10, 2020, General Membership meeting were approved without corrections.

### Special Guests:

**City Councilman Bobby Wilson, Pittsburgh Police Chief Scott Schubert, Commander Victor Joseph, Commander William Fleske, Sgt. Mike Burford**  
**City Violence Prevention Outreach Cornell Jones, Talli Thompson**

Due to the recent homicide and increased gunshot activity, Councilman Wilson led a 90-minute presentation and resident Q&A on crime and violence in the neighborhood. Police presented current statistics and outlined their processes in working against these issues. Police were positive in their comments about the involvement of neighborhood residents and businesses who assist them in their efforts. Residents showed their concern over this increased activity, mental health issues and added the proliferation of unlicensed dirt bikes and ATVs on city streets to the discussion. Cornell Jones and Talli Thompson outlined their efforts in the City's Violence Prevention Outreach program and offered to return to have a dedicated conversation on this issue and how residents can help.

Sgt Burford also reminded members that names of those needing a hot meal this Thanksgiving can be sent to Zone 1 for the annual "Stuffed With Love" program.

Councilman Wilson added an update on sidewalk paving around Legion Park.

### Report of Officers and Others:

#### President's Report

**Joseph Glassbrenner**

Joe reported that this year's Opt Outside event where children are encouraged to be active is on the traditional Black Friday after Thanksgiving. This year it will be held in Riverview Park on 11/27 at 1:00 p.m.

#### Vice President

**Brendan Delaney**

Brendan reported on the mail-in process for our November Board election. Ballots must be postmarked by 11/19 and any family memberships that did not receive the correct number of ballots can contact the office or email for assistance.

#### Corresponding Secretary

**Kate Kelley**

Kate had no report.

#### Treasurer's Report

**Gretchen Serra**

Net Worth Report – As of 10/31/20

<i>Assets — Cash and Bank Accounts</i>	
Monument	1,637.63
Pay Pal On Line	191.99
Wesbanco OP Acct	12,903.36
SSB OP Acct	14,884.95
State Grant Acct	915.81
United Way	1,032.87
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$31,566.61</b>

A motion to accept was approved.

### Report of Committees:

#### NSLC

**John Belch and Vince Pallus**

John reported on the Northside Holiday Pop-Up Market to be held on East Ohio Street, Saturdays starting 11/19.

#### Nominating

**Brendan Delaney**

See Vice-President report.

#### Neighborhood Safety Committee

**Donna Kramer**

See Police and Public Safety guests.

#### Gardens and Greenspaces

**Ed Gergerich and Stacey Roa**

Ed reported on the holiday poinsettia and wreath sale fundraiser and stated that garden clean-up is running late this year.

#### Animal Wellness

**Dina Serpa**

No report .

#### Bright the Night

**Donna Kramer**

Donna reported that the Legion Park tree lighting will be December 5 at 6:00 p.m. Danielle Graham-Robinson detailed the Holiday House Decoration contest and tour activity.

#### Land Use

**Alex Carrera**

Alex reported that the committee is awaiting construction drawings on the two rehabilitation house projects and that the Board voted to continue to work with the Allegheny Land Trust for the greenspace project at the St. John's site, after PWSA pulled out of the project.

## By-Laws

### **Danielle Graham Robinson**

Danielle presented the new by-law revisions that had been given notice previously for a vote. Several members expressed concerns over the language and whether this revision had been vetted by an outside attorney. Other members questioned this last minute opposition. The discussion also included how proper voting protocols can be made in our online meetings. One participant continually directed profanity and gestures to Chair Graham-Robinson. A motion to accept these by-law changes was made and a vote was taken, but President Glassbrenner pointed out the 2/3 majority for such changes was not possible without an accurate count of members present at this point in the meeting. After more disruption, a motion to table these changes to the January GMM was passed.

## Old Business

None.

## New Business

None.

## Anything for the Good of the Federation

The next General Membership meeting will be January 14, 2021.

Approximately 100 persons attended.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

## Respectfully submitted

**John Belch**

## Last Page Laugh

by Tom Kaylor

*Q: By what manner did the Doctor treat the patient who had a sore hip?*

*A: Hip-nosis.*



## Christmas Tree Recycling Program

By Sarah Steers

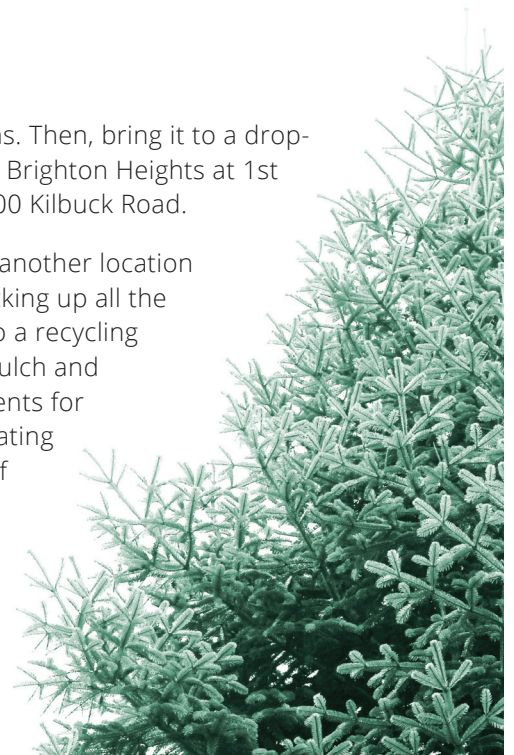
Artificial Christmas trees are easy (some of them even come pre-lit), but some of us love the smell of the real thing – even if that means vacuuming pine needles off the carpet every day for weeks. If you're reading this newsletter, we're already well into 2020. So what can you do if you bought a fresh tree for the holidays and now need to get rid of it?

If you put your Christmas tree on the curb, it will be taken to a landfill. But the City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works runs a Christmas Tree Recycling Program and it runs from December 26, 2020, through January 26, 2021 (seven days a week) from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. It provides a "sustainable alternative for residents to dispose of their trees."

First, you must remove all decorations. Then, bring it to a drop-off location. There's one right here in Brighton Heights at 1st Division of Public Works located at 300 Kilbuck Road.

Yes, it's a hassle to drag your tree to another location when you've already spent hours packing up all the ornaments. But every tree brought to a recycling location will be wood chipped into mulch and the City will offer free mulch to residents for four Saturdays in the spring. Participating in this program will keep a tree out of a landfill – over 36 tons of trees were diverted last year. And gardeners will be thrilled to use your Christmas mulch in the spring!

PHOTO BY NIKA AKIN ON UNSPLASH



# 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, JANUARY 14, 2021**  
MEETING WILL BE BROADCAST VIA ZOOM. VISIT [WWW.BRIGHTONHEIGHTS.ORG](http://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