



# BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 52  
ISSUE 5

## CITIZENS REPORT

November 2022



PHOTO BY PRO CHURCH MEDIA ON UNSPLASH

### Get Stuffed with Love – Feed the Hungry

Do you need a meal on Thanksgiving?

Rotary Clubs of Bethel-St Clair and Northern Allegheny, and Holy Assumption of St. Mary Orthodox Church are partnering again this year to cook, assemble, and Pittsburgh Police officers will deliver food on Thanksgiving Day. Over the past 19 years, this event has gone from feeding 250 people who are homeless, shut-ins, disabled, and in need to over 4,200 people and numbers keep growing!

**If you need a meal, you just need to contact your local police zone officer! Deadline date to call in a meal is Friday, November 18, 2022. NO EXCEPTIONS, so please call now!**

If you don't need a meal, but would like to donate, please make checks payable to "The Rotary Club of Bethel-St. Clair" and write "Thanksgiving" in the memo. Checks should be mailed to SSB Bank, Attn: Heather Dieckmann, 8700 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

#### ZONE 1

**CONTACTS:** Officer Darrick Payton, Officer Eric Defeo, or Sgt. Michael Burford

**PHONE:** 412-323-7201

**EMAIL:** darrick.payton@pittsburghpa.gov  
eric.defeo@pittsburghpa.gov  
michael.burford@pittsburghpa.gov

#### ZONE 2

**CONTACTS:** Officer Eldridge Kimbrough or Officer Brian Wissner

**PHONE:** 412-255-0782 (sub station: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 412-255-2828

**EMAIL:** eldridge.kimbrough@pittsburghpa.gov  
brian.wissner@pittsburghpa.gov

#### ZONE 3

**CONTACT:** Officer Christine Luffey

**PHONE:** 412-488-8425

**EMAIL:** christine.luffey@pittsburghpa.gov

#### ZONE 4

**CONTACT:** Officer Victoria Butch

**PHONE:** 412-422-6559 or 412-422-6520

**EMAIL:** victoria.butch@pittsburghpa.gov

#### ZONE 5

**CONTACT:** Officer Jeffery Crawford

**PHONE:** 412-665-3770

**EMAIL:** jeffery.crawford@pittsburghpa.gov

#### ZONE 6

**CONTACT:** Officer Joshua Stinebaugh or Officer Robert Stehle

**PHONE:** 412-937-3051

**EMAIL:** joshua.stinebaugh@pittsburghpa.gov  
robert.stehle@pittsburghpa.gov

### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.

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Review of Last General Meeting

## From the Federation President

by Joseph Glassbrenner

The month of November is surely one of the most challenging changing of the seasons for me. The days become shorter. We feel less and less sun on our bodies and the temperatures start to turn to uncomfortably low temperatures. All of this kicks off a holiday winter season that we all have learned to love and embrace. I'll enjoy what it has to offer with a lot less running from place to place, more time to be still, the scenic views of the snow, and the holiday parties with friends and family.

In keeping with tradition, the 35' pine tree in Legion Memorial Park will be lit this year despite the tree going dark last year due to a one-car accident that disabled the power. The electrical power has been repaired. I have also worked with Duquesne Light to negotiate an agreement with Nelson Tree Service to string the near 500 lights around the tree this year. Nelson is a subcontractor of Duquesne Light who you may have seen in the area trimming trees around the power lines to maintain the reliability of our electrical service. In addition to the lights at Legion, the light poles in the California Ave business district will be decorated by volunteers from The Northside Assumption Catholic School. Thank you to Cherise Rossmiller for coordinating the decorating. If you are interested in helping decorate, please contact the BHCF to be connected. The tentative date is Saturday, November 12.

Tree Pittsburgh is working with the Pittsburgh Pirates and Duquesne Light to host the "Power Hitters" program to plant 15 new trees at Jack Stack Park on Wednesday, November 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Pirates organization would welcome residents to take part in this initiative. The Pirates are working with Tree Pittsburgh to plant a tree for every home-run the Pirates hit in the coming season. Come plant some trees and help create a greener Pittsburgh. No RSVP is needed.

On Saturday, October 15, I was proud to be part of the 25th anniversary Morrell Street Block Party! Residents of this block have carried on the tradition of togetherness by hosting an annual block party with food, fun, and fellowship. The party had an attendance of over 70 residents, great music, prizes, food, and drink. It was all organized by residents. They did a great job planning and were blessed by many local donations. A block party or street party is an event permitted by the City of Pittsburgh by applying for a street permit by accessing the City's website. The street is barricaded and closed to traffic for the day. The impact of knowing your neighbor is far beyond the good time and great food. Streets that host these block parties are no doubt safer and more connected. Residents can look out for each other, speak with each other, and see something/say something when they see something out of place. If you are interested in hosting or starting a new block party, please connect with the BHCF to learn how. Furthermore, the BHCF will donate the cost for the permit to any block party happening in Brighton Heights to enable these community events!

I'd like to thank all of the Brighton Heights residents, PITT volunteers, and Allegheny Cleanways volunteers who came out to pick up literally tons of trash from the Ruben St hillside, worked the Termon Ave Gardens, and prepped the wooden Green Up lot signs to be repainted by Josh Nard this winter. I was grateful for a beautiful day and everything we accomplished.

If you are not familiar with the "Cops and Coffee" circuits, there are monthly opportunities to attend and learn. The title explains most of the concept. Cops and Coffee is a monthly meeting that takes place in different Northside neighborhoods with community members and Zone 1 Police. These meetings provide a casual way to engage and interact with our Police Department and officers. The initiative was piloted by the Northside Public Safety Council and is supported by many community groups. On Thursday, October 20, Brighton Heights hosted a session at the All Saints Episcopal Church. I want to thank Donna Kramer (Board Member) for coordinating and Michelle Hubert (All Saints Episcopal Church) for making the space available for us.

I would like to thank all of the parents, grandparents, guardians, and children who attended the BHCF's annual Halloween Parade on October 29. Congratulations to everyone who won prizes for such great costumes. Thanks to my wife, Taylor, who stepped up to Chair the parade and the committee who planned such a successful event.

The last reports I have are updates on three projects that were either delayed, defunded, or now in question: **1)** The Termon Ave traffic calming project was promised to start construction in May of 2022. The implantation of traffic chicanes and a traffic circle at Termon and McClure was explained by DOMI at two separate public meetings. It was explained to me that due to unforeseen delays in procurement and contractual issues, construction will be delayed until early spring of 2023. **2)** Some of you have contacted the BHCF to ask about the rescheduling of the Development Activities meeting planned for the McClure Ave Healthy Active Living Center (HALC). The scheduled meeting was canceled due to the water main break in September. I was asked by the architect leading the project to withhold rescheduling the meeting because of budget concerns presented to him. **3)** The final project update is on the Davis Ave bicycle/pedestrian bridge. Just last month I learned after hosting a Development activities meeting in July and numerous other public inputs, that this project is only 70% funded. This is leaving a shortfall of 30% before moving forward with construction.

These projects were anticipated to be in final design, presented to the public for input prior to construction, or already started. I'm asking for your help to advocate for these projects, especially the McClure HALC that would add community space and programming for our teens and seniors. A new HALC would allow a new recreational space, be supported by programs by the community, and help keep teens off the street by providing a safe and supported environment. Please contact the Mayor Office by phone, email, or in writing to request these projects are added to the 2023 Capital Budget. Without the funding for next year, the future of them would be uncertain.

I will conclude by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy upcoming Holiday Season. I urge you to thank or recognize a Veteran on Veterans Day, November 11, and remind you our next General Membership Meeting is Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the John Morrow School Auditorium.

**As always, I'll see you in the neighborhood.**

## 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  
PO Box 99602, Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
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: Robert Haller  
Corresponding Sec: Elaine Gloeckner  
Recording Secretary: Open

### Directors

Judy Bendtsen, Stacy Berkebile, Monique Flowers, Bill Goodrich, Parker Goolsby, Janice Johns-Engelman, Donna Kramer, Tim Maloney, Raymond Robinson, Gretchen Serra, Soo Yi Thompson

## 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:	412-690-0918
Address:	PO Box 99602, Pgh PA 15233
E-Mail:	BHCFpgh@gmail.com
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
State Rep. - District 20	412-321-5523

## Garbage Olympics Review

by Tim Maloney

We had beautiful weather again for this year's fall trash clean-up event. There were over 20 volunteers who came out for the 6th Annual City of Pittsburgh Garbage Olympics. This is an event created by the Clean Pittsburgh Commission and is held throughout the city on the 3rd Saturday in September to encourage residents to participate in beautifying their neighborhoods.

We were able to cover the main streets, greenspaces and many side streets. Altogether, we picked up around 40 large trash bags, along with things like a car bumper, fender, antennae, discarded credit cards, and other miscellaneous finds!

Thank you to Judy Bendtsen, Michele Hubert, Dan Blumenfeld, Lilian Akin, Adam Eury, Cindy Billisits, Larry Koppelman, Jess Marecic, Tracy Johnston, Emily Kinhead, Cody Sembrat, Joe Russian, Tom Flaherty, Grace Pessalato, Cayla Treaster, Ed Gergerich, Beth Smith, John Belch, Danielle Robinson, Kristen Priestley, Dave and Wayne!

We had a great time at the after party at Threadbare Cider House, who did a great job of serving us delicious food and beverages! If you volunteered, but did not attend, I recommend you do so next year. Brighton Heights did not win any prizes, but we held our own with the number of volunteers and amount of trash picked up! We are going to win the "Team Spirit" award next year; we have already determined!

I want to continue to encourage everyone who lives in Brighton Heights to do their part by picking up trash as you see it. Contact Tim Maloney if interested in becoming a part of the

Adopt-A-Block Program. If each of us does a little bit, we can keep our neighborhood looking beautiful throughout the year!

A special thank you to the volunteers from Bridge City Church who picked up Brighton Heights Blvd in the summer! They also pulled weeds and trimmed bushes and trees. It is a noticeable difference! If you would like to learn more about this church, here is their web address: [www.bridgectitypgh.com/brighton-heights](http://www.bridgectitypgh.com/brighton-heights)

See you on Saturday, April 22, 2023, (Earth Day) for the Spring Clean-up Event. Mark it on your calendar now so you don't forget!

If you have any questions, please contact the event coordinator below.

**CONTACT:** Tim Maloney  
**PHONE:** 412-726-0800  
**EMAIL:** dirtdoctim@msn.com



## Hillside Clean-Up Event Review

by Tim Maloney

Thank you everyone who came out for the Hillside clean-up event! We were able to get a large section of Reuben and Beckham Hillside picked up. We hauled in 3 tons of trash, 11 TVs and 8 tires!

A special thank you to:

- Erica Pasquali and Allegheny Cleanways for providing the dumpster and expertise!
- several members of Pittsburgh Hash House Harriers and thanks to Jess Marecic and Marc Pekor for arranging that.
- Judy Bendtsen for helping sign everyone in and "manning" the table.- the Pitt students who were here as part of Pitt Serves Civic Action week.

In addition to the hillside, the students helped Edward Gergerich with community gardening and John Belch with restoring a sign!

And thank you God for giving us an absolutely beautiful day!



## Riverview Park Day Review

RP (Riverview Park) Day 2022 returned this year after a 2-year hiatus and was a great success! This community day is a way to celebrate and generate awareness of Riverview Park and raise funds to continue preservation work and general park improvements. At this year's RP Day, we had a handful of family-friendly hikes that we were excited to offer, including a Mushroom Hike with Stephen Bucklin of the Western PA Mushroom Club, a hike with PWSA staff of the current green infrastructure projects in the park, and a bird watching hike with National Aviary staff.

This year's event (as it has in the past), started off with a CycloCross race that was sponsored by the Month of Mud race series and coordinated by Ben Brewer of Observatory Hill.

This event was supported by a handful of sponsors including the Pipitone Group and Highmark, with additional support from the Department of Public Works, Office of Special Events, Citiparks and Councilman Bobby Wilson.

Thank you to the City of Pittsburgh, Northside Leadership Conference, and the Friends of Riverview Park and the larger community for making this year's event a success!

## BHCF Halloween Parade Review

by Taylor Glassbrenner

The BHCF Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 29, was a wonderful success. The costume contest began at 11 a.m. with the parade following at noon. The parade included the Pittsburgh Mounted Police, Engine 35, Perry ROTC and Pom Pom dance group. We had prizes for kids of all age groups, crafts, face painting, Build-a-Bear raffle as well as fall floral arrangement raffle for the adults. Attendees danced along to a DJ and received a Halloween candy bag.

Thank you to all the sponsors who, at the time of this writing, are still coming forward! I also want to thank our Halloween planning committee who organized such a great event in such a short time: Stacey Roa, Janice Engleman, Mary Adkins, Gwen Kelly, Cherise Rossmiller, Donna Kramer, Kaitlyn Yakish, Alex Carrera, Joe Glassbrenner, Cindy Billisits, Cheryl Capezzuti, and anyone else who had a part. Due to the timing of the November newsletter, we could not give a comprehensive review with photos until our next newsletter. Please look for a complete review in the January Newsletter.

## This Fall in Pictures by Joseph Glassbrenner



*Pittsburgh Police hold a discussion with residents on October 20 during the "Cops and Coffee" at All Saints Episcopal Church.*



*A colorful puppet mobile is shown from the puppet mobile weekend workshop hosted by resident Cheryl Capezzuti and the Giant Puppet Dance Club on October 22. Look for this mobile and others in Pittsburgh's First Night Parade!*



*Residents who attended the Morrell Street Block Party on October 15 get together for a group picture after a prize raffle and dinner.*

## Healthy Active Living Center (HALC) Open House Event

### WHEN:

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

### WHERE:

3515 McClure Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

### TIME:

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

### PLEASE RSVP:

412-766-4656

### COME TO THE EVENT AND ENJOY:

- Food
- Fun
- Fellowship
- Arts & Craft
- Door Prizes

HEALTH ACTIVE LIVING (HAL) IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT ALL PERSONS 60 AND OLDER LIVE ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIVES. CITIPARKS COMMUNITY SERVICES OPERATES 13 HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING CENTERS (SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTERS) OPEN YEAR ROUND, MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS. EACH CENTER FOCUSES ON IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OLDER PITTSBURGHERS - PHYSICALLY, INTELLECTUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY AND FINANCIALLY.

PHOTO BY JASON LEUNG ON UNSPLASH

## Pittsburgh Police Zone 1 Gift Card Drive

The BHCF board has decided to launch an initiative to show thanks and appreciation to the Pittsburgh Police officers who serve our residents in Brighton Heights. The work and dedication the Police Bureau has put forth day and night for the safety of our residents is deeply appreciated. To show our appreciation, the Board is asking for donations in one of three forms:

- 1) \$10.00 gift cards to local shops on the Northside;
- 2) You can mail a check to PO Box 99602 Pittsburgh PA 15233;
- 3) You are a business interested in donating gift cards.

Donations will be accepted until the first week of December. At that time the BHCF will present Zone 1 with a gift cards basket for every officer (approximately 75) to choose a \$10.00 gift card. Please consider donating and adding your name to the Holiday Card.

## NorthSideWorks! Program

Below are selected resources for residents to find information about careers, job openings, training opportunities, and more.

### FREE CAREER COUNSELING

- JFCS: career counseling for any individual  
[www.jfcspg.org/services/career-development-center/](http://www.jfcspg.org/services/career-development-center/)
- PA CareerLink: career counseling for any individual  
[www.pacareerlink.pa.gov](http://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov)

For more information, contact the coordinator below.

**CONTACT:** Ellie Wentz

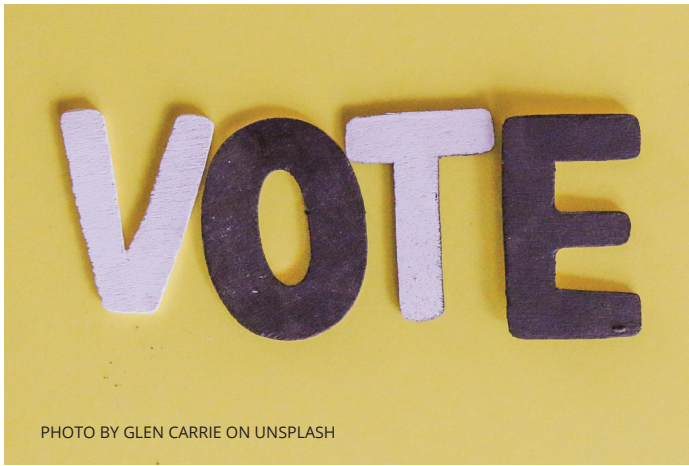
**PHONE:** 412-231-6500

**EMAIL:** [ellie@northsidechamberofcommerce.com](mailto:ellie@northsidechamberofcommerce.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.northsidechamberofcommerce.com/northsideworks](http://www.northsidechamberofcommerce.com/northsideworks)



For the full Resident Resource Guide, scan the QR code or visit:  
[www.northsidechamberofcommerce.com/northsideworks/workforce-resources](http://www.northsidechamberofcommerce.com/northsideworks/workforce-resources)



## November Board of Directors Elections

Elections for the BHCF Board of Directors will take place at the November 10 General Membership Meeting, with several Elected Director positions up for election. To date, those individuals running for election are current Directors Stacey Berkebile, Bill Goodrich, Parker Goolsby, and Donna Kramer.

Additional nominations for the Elected Director positions are being accepted now through November 10. Please message [BHCFPGH@gmail.com](mailto:BHCFPGH@gmail.com) prior to the November 10 meeting if you would like to make a nomination.

## Proposed Amendment to the BHCF By Laws

At the regularly scheduled board meeting held on October 6 of this year, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the following proposal relating to determining a quorum for future board meetings.

### BY LAWS – SECTION 3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS PARAGRAPH 4

Nine Directors present at any Board meeting constitutes a quorum, Fifty-one (51) percent of the Board present at any meeting shall constitute a majority. A majority vote is sufficient to carry any motion. In the event of a tie vote, the presiding officer's vote shall be withdrawn.

The proposed amendment to the By Laws would strike Nine Directors and replace it with "A simple majority of Directors".

This proposal will be presented at the General Membership Meeting held in January, and after discussion, a motion will be made to approve the proposal. Amendments to the By Laws require a two-thirds majority of the members present and eligible to vote to carry the motion and amend the By Laws.

## From State Representative Emily Kinkead

Hello neighbors! As the days get shorter and cooler, I find myself curling up under a comfy blanket, sipping some of my favorite tea, and reflecting on the work we have done as a community to help Brighton Heights be a safer, cleaner, and more resourceful community. Whether it was rallying around neighbors who have experienced violence, attending meetings to voice concerns over recent criminal activity, to participating in the annual Garbage Olympics, and hosting a local document shred event, it was easy to "find the helpers" among us, as Mr. Rogers encouraged us to do. I am not only proud to serve and represent Brighton Heights, I am proud to also live here!

We have a lot more to do at the state level though, to ensure that your concerns are met with a listening ear, and effective action, so I hope you continue to reach out to my office to let us know how we can be of assistance.

I also want to take a moment to remind seniors in our district, that there is still time to apply for a property tax rebate (for homeowners) or a rent rebate (for renters). Homeowners with a total household income of less than \$35,000 and renters with a household income of \$15,000 or less may qualify for up to \$650 PLUS an additional, one-time bonus amount that is 70% of your regular qualifying rebate amount. Call our office to see if you qualify, and to get help with your application!

My team is also able to help you with:

- Unemployment
- Problems with the Dept. of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- PennDOT documents and all kinds of state forms
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Birth and death certificates
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the Public Utility Commission
- Renewal of state issued licenses or certifications

If you need help with any state or government related services, please contact my office below.

**CONTACT:** Emily Kinkead, State Representative, District 20

**PHONE:** 412-321-5523

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

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.pahouse.com/kinkead>

**TWITTER:** @RepKinkead

**FACEBOOK:** Rep. Emily Kinkead

**INSTAGRAM:** @repkinkead



For updates on what I am doing in Harrisburg, please scan the QR code and sign up for my weekly e-blast. It is the best way to stay informed!

## From Councilman Bobby Wilson

A few weeks ago, I was proud to present the first proclamation issued by Pittsburgh City Council to “Protect Trans Kids” to several young trans students and activists in the City of Pittsburgh. I am greatly appreciative that all of my fellow Council members recognized the urgent importance of standing up to protect our trans youth here in the City of Pittsburgh and joined me in co-sponsoring this proclamation. It was a great honor for me to invite these incredible students to draft this proclamation. After disgusting language was used against a young trans person and their family in Observatory Hill, I was looking for ways to express that such behavior is both unacceptable and intolerable on the Northside, or anywhere in our City. Trans youth are the subject of an unrelenting and hostile culture war in our country these days. We cannot forget that they are still children, and all children thrive when they feel safe.

When Sue Kerr of the Pittsburgh Lesbian Correspondents (PLC) convened some trans youth from across our City to brainstorm ways to stand up against such harassment, we offered them the opportunity to come together and draft a proclamation to express our shared sentiments about protecting trans youth. Our intention in enacting this proclamation is to make it an annual tradition at Council. I am confident that the energy generated by the annual tradition of drafting and updating this proclamation will generate more and more ideas about other robust steps that City Council can take to make Pittsburgh a safer place for trans youth. At the end of the day, the only way to fight hate speech is with more speech. City Council's proclamation, and the broad coverage it generated in our City, is now a part of the effort to push back against the hate speech that is too often directed against trans youth and adults. This is only the first step, but it is a critical step in decreasing the sheer amount of hateful speech directed against our trans neighbors.

I also want to share about the work that the City of Bridges Community Land Trust (CBCLT) is doing on the Northside to make and keep home ownership affordable for low and moderate income homebuyers. According to the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), housing is affordable when those living at the house are spending no more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. Community land trusts (CLTs) create affordable housing while still allowing low and moderate income residents to build equity as homeowners. Moreover, because CLTs retain ownership of the underlying land, CLT housing remains permanently affordable, even as the original beneficiaries of an affordable home price sell and move on. This long-term, continuing benefit makes CLTs an especially efficient use of affordable housing subsidies. By locking

in permanent access to affordable housing, CLTs play an important role by bringing balance to areas with large amounts of market-rate development.

Observatory Hill recently partnered with City of Bridges Community Land Trust to bring three permanently affordable houses on Bonvue Street to market in that Northside neighborhood. These are four-bedroom houses that are priced around \$140,000, after qualified buyers receive additional grants from the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and down-payment assistance from CBCLT. Target buyers for these homes in Observatory Hill could have annual household incomes as low as \$50,000. Eight permanently affordable homes on Lanark Street in Fineview, with construction expected to begin next summer, will also become available to interested homebuyers soon. CBCLT partnered with the Fineview Citizens Council to bring affordable houses to this neighborhood as a mix of two-bedroom and three-bedroom homes, priced around \$135,000 per house after qualified buyers receive additional grants from the URA and down-payment assistance from CBCLT. Target buyers for these homes in Fineview could have annual household incomes as low as \$45,000. This month, CBCLT will also make a two-bedroom rental unit, on Warren Street in Fineview, available to a holder of a Section 8 voucher. CBCLT is also managing additional rental units in Fineview and may have more vacancies in future months. If you are interested in buying or renting a permanently affordable home through the City of Bridges Community Land Trust, or in seeing how they can be a resource in your neighborhood of Brighton Heights, reach out to **Crystal Jennings-Rivera at (412) 621-1811 Ext 110**. You can also check your eligibility for any CBCLT home quickly and securely online at <https://cityofbridgesclt.org/apply/>.

If you have any thoughts about any of these updates or any other questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

**PHONE:** 412-255-2135

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

**TWITTER:** @Dist1Pgh

**FACEBOOK:** Office of Councilman Bobby Wilson

**INSTAGRAM:** @councilmanbobbywilson



## From Senator Wayne D. Fontana

### SENATE PASSAGE OF MY CARBON MONOXIDE LEGISLATION

Last month, my Senate Bill 129 (SB 129) unanimously passed the Senate. This legislation would require carbon monoxide (CO) detectors to be installed in childcare facilities licensed and regulated by the Commonwealth. As you may be aware, CO is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels from items like portable generators, vehicles, power washers as well as malfunctioning fireplaces, furnaces and water heaters. More than 400 people every year in the United States die from unintentional, non-fire related CO poisoning.

In high concentration, carbon monoxide can cause flu-like symptoms including headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pains, loss of muscle control, confusion, unconsciousness and ultimately death. Although CO poisoning can be fatal to anyone, children are particularly vulnerable. The only safe way to know if CO is present in a building is with a working alarm. Carbon monoxide devices are available at volunteer fire companies, and hardware and home improvement stores for as little as \$20.

With limited time left in the current legislative session, it's not certain that the House of Representatives will move my bill before the end of the year. Regardless, I will continue advocating for this measure to become law, if not this year, then into the next legislative session.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR SNAP BENEFITS EXPANDS

Effective October 1, Pennsylvania increased the income threshold for all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applicants to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG). With this change, more than 420,000 additional Pennsylvanians in more than 174,000 households will be newly eligible for SNAP and will receive, on average, \$63 a month.

Beginning on October 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) expanded Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP. While SNAP is a federal program and SNAP benefits are funded through the federal budget, states administer eligibility and issuance of benefits. BBCE is a policy that gives states, including Pennsylvania, the flexibility to determine appropriate income thresholds and extend SNAP benefits to low-income families and individuals who would otherwise struggle to afford food. DHS currently uses BBCE flexibility to set income thresholds to 160 percent of the FPIG for households that do not have elderly or disabled members.

With this change, the household monthly income limits for all households to be eligible for SNAP are as follows:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	200% FEDERAL POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES
1	\$2,266
2	\$3,052
3	\$3,840
4	\$4,626
5	\$5,412
6	\$6,200
7	\$6,986
8	\$7,772
9	\$8,560
10	\$9,348
Each additional member	\$788

Applications for SNAP and other public assistance programs can be submitted online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). SNAP applications are also accepted by phone by calling the Consumer Service Center at **1-866-550-4355**. In-person applications can also be submitted by making an appointment with the Allegheny County Assistance Office by calling **412-565-2146**.

### STAY CONNECTED

I publish a weekly newsletter that highlights legislative activity in Harrisburg, state-related information and news on local issues. To receive my weekly News & Views editions in your inbox, I encourage you to visit my website at [www.senatorfontana.com](http://www.senatorfontana.com) to sign up. I also publish a monthly edition focused on jobs and employment opportunities. You can also follow me on Twitter.

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# MINUTES (Review of Previous General Membership Meeting)

## September 8, 2022

Call to Order at 7 p.m.; followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Old Meeting Minutes were reviewed with a Motion to Approve by Ed and a 2nd by Art. Passed with no Abstains and no Opposed.

### Special Guests:

#### **Pittsburgh Police and District Attorney's office**

#### **Bufford, Payton, Malloy, Newman**

Over a 30 day period from 8/8/2022 – 9/8/2022, there were 43 police reports and 3 arrests. 7 reports were due to firearms. 4 were auto thefts notably without the theft of firearms from the cars. Video evidence is helpful for the police. Notable incident was at Marmaduke Park where someone exposed themselves to a resident and child. The person was arrested that evening. On the 13th of August, there was a call for a female in distress. The one causing distress was a felon on parole but with a gun. There was a traffic incident near Davis and Campus Avenue where a male suspect was passed out in their car but had a gun. There were shots fired on 8/18 on the 1000 block of Davis Avenue. Cars and people were identified. Shell casings were retrieved that showed evidence that shots were fired from the house. Search warrants were executed on the property where guns, drugs (heroin and marijuana) were discovered. The police are continuing to monitor the house and residents of 1000 block of Davis Avenue. There are patrols in Brighton Heights. Firearms that were confiscated are being tested as part of the investigation.

Per Deputy DA Newman, no one should be disclosing information on open investigations. She is a resident of Brighton Heights as well, with a history of working on narcotics and violent crime cases.

**Resident/Neighbor asked:** what to do about other residents on 1000 block of Davis Avenue who are now being threatened and harassed by the 1020 Davis house residents (tires slashed, verbal assault).

**Police asked:** that all threats are documented and called into the police

and ensure there is documentation and a paper trail.

**Residents asked:** the DA to be firm. Residents asked about the camera on Davis that was removed just before the drive-by. What was it removed with, by whom and when will it be replaced? There was another incident the same time as the drive-by on Davis. How is the other resident who was assaulted being protected and what can residents expect in terms of safety and support from the city?

**Police responded:** the camera on Davis was moved to a different location because there was a greater need identified in a different area of Pittsburgh. Residents asked if they could purchase a camera for the Police but there is a current technical bandwidth limitation on the "Shot Spotter" network of cameras and more cameras will not resolve the bandwidth issue for the platform.

**Resident/Neighbor asked:** it seems as though the police are downplaying the violence and the frequency of assaults in Brighton Heights. Neighbors are leaving/moving out, impacting the tax base, the property value and the voting strength of the area.

**Police reminded:** the community that the law enforcement process takes time. They are often unable to prevent assaults and crime themselves but are the ones to respond. That theft of vehicles is a crime of opportunity so residents must do what they can to protect themselves and their own property including locking vehicles, not leaving valuables in vehicles and not placing their smart-car keys so close to the vehicle/driveway that their car may unlock unwittingly. The camera on Davis will be replaced soon, but there is no definitive date by the Police. For the assault on a 2nd neighbor, the perpetrator was arrested and hate crimes have been added to the arrest/charges. The D-DA cautioned that the magistrate may amend the charges at the next hearing. The Commonwealth can add or remove charges at the discretion of the magistrate/judge. The proof of burden is "beyond reasonable doubt".

**Resident asked:** about how the police will address staffing shortages. Resident emphasized that we have to work at

creating our own trail of evidence and paperwork and documentation. We have to follow processes and then follow up on the process – to not assume it's being taken care of because mistakes and errors happen all the time. Other residents reaffirmed that they will file complaints and file reports and keep documentation of the reporting so that there is an established history and audit trail. Residents asked if there are home cameras that can be used and how to crowd-source video evidence that may be needed if the "Shot Spotter" police camera network isn't able to support. Residents also asked if the Davis Avenue bridge project should be paused because it may introduce criminal activity from other neighborhoods. Residents supported the concept of crowd-sourcing cameras. Office of Emily Kinkead advised there is an Opt In for Ring cameras to join a police program.

**Residents expressed:** support for the police, officials and the DA's office for what they have been able to do in response to major crimes in the area. They asked for more help and more understanding to provide better support.

**Police advised** that their investigations are target specific. They do social media analysis to understand accomplices and other influencers of perpetrators. However, they are stretched thin with staffing, split between 18 neighborhoods for Zone 1 alone. They want to introduce a Door Hanger/Walking the Neighborhood program to build trust and understand what is happening in the community.

**Residents asked:** about follow ups to the Zone 1 website and using technology to report issues and to update contact information.

#### **Mayor's Office Rebecca Renalo**

Mayor Gainey is shoring up Neighborhood services. There are 2 new police academy classes scheduled. This will be 12-14 week program and 11 months until fully operational and active police officers. A resident asked about the new academy classes also bringing in candidates/former police/peace officers from other neighborhoods and pushing them through a fast track training and onboarding program. What is the risk of bringing on a "bad apple" police officer & the screening

process. The Mayor's office is working on the budget. Preliminary hearings will be on 9/30 and available online for transparency and feedback. The Mayor's office is also building a program to intervene and prevent crime called GVI (Group Violence Intervention) – a social work program with case management intervention led by Rev. Cornell Jones.

**Residents/Board requested:** a follow up from the Mayor's office on the Mayor having a walk through of Brighton Heights, press conference and commitment to public safety. A follow up to the Nuisance Property Board candidate program so BH can have a representative for the Northside. And a short term plan on what the City can do to prevent crime, if the movement in policing is to be more data driven.

Mayor's office also advised that the PLI (Permits, License and Inspections) Office will have 2 virtual trainings for residents to look up properties and help keep data updated in the database and also report violations/nuisance properties. Dates are 10/11 @ 2:00 p.m. and 10/17 @ 6:00 p.m.

### **Emily Kinkead's Office**

Due to redistricting, their office will be moving locations. There is a Senior Fair on 10/27 in the Ross Township Municipal Building that is open to all. The latest newsletter from her office contains the state budget information. Her office can provide support and direction/guidance for different state programs/assistance. The state now has a \$100 million grant for Gun Violence Prevention and encouraging those interested with ideas and programs to apply for funding.

### **Bobby Wilson's Office**

Helped to secure the DA's office attendance at today's meeting and will continue to work with the DA's office representing the concerns of BH. On 9/29 at 7:00 p.m. there is a meeting for the Davis Avenue Bridge project. The traffic calming project for Termon Avenue between Brighton Road and California was paused because the engineer left and a new engineer is just onboarding. Residents asked for a follow up from Bobby Wilson's office on street paving on Brighton Road. They are only paving where they dig but the paving is done very poorly making driving an issue.

## **Report of Officers and Others:**

### **President's Report**

The Robert P. McAfee Bridge (on California Ave) will be repaired/rebuilt with portions to be removed due to safety. Estimated timeline is 2024. The St John Hospital greensite project has a grant secured by BHCF with the State Dept of Trails and Rec. \$83,000 in URA grant money was secured to create a plan/design that will include bike stations, stairs, walking paths, benches and a community garden. Thanks to both City Council Bobby Wilson and State Rep Emily Kinkead for support. The new nuisance property board as part of the Mayor's office will meet next month in October. There is an open house for the Health Active Center at the Sr Center on McClure 9/21 at 7:00 p.m. The Rite-Aid clock was working but then stopped again. Repairs to the clock are needed. Board will need to follow up with Rite-Aid on clock repair. Board nominations are coming up this Fall. The requirements are any dues-paying members of the community and the meeting requirements (attending X # of meetings to remain in good standing) is being lifted.

### **Vice President**

Nothing to report.

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

BHCF has a cash balance of \$22,269 and \$22,309 in both accounts respectively. The Home and Garden Tour had gross revenue of approximately \$9,000 with a net revenue after expenses of approximately \$6,000. Compared to the 2019 Home Tour which had gross revenue of \$6,000.

## **Report of Committees:**

### **Public Safety Committee**

Nothing to report.

### **Halloween Committee**

Volunteers are needed to help Kaitlyn for the parade scheduled on 10/29.

### **Gardens and Greenspaces**

Ed needs help with weeding and trimming. Please contact him. His information is in the newsletter.

### **Garbage Olympics**

Scheduled for 9/17.

### **House Tour**

This was the best year ever. 2023 planning will need to start early next year.

### **Build Your Own Wealth**

Reported 6 teens participated. There were volunteers from unions. Next opportunity will be in May 2023.

Residents requested to make the meetings hybrid (online and in-person). The BHCF Board will work with the school principal or the Health Active Living Center on McClure.

## **Action Items**

- The Brighton Heights Neighborhood Watch group would follow up with the police on neighborhood cameras.
- BHCF Board to submit a candidate from BH for the nuisance property board.
- BHCF to investigate how to make community meetings hybrid for both online and in-person attendance/participation.

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

- The next General Membership meeting will be November 10, 2022.
- Approximately 52 persons attended.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to close the meeting. It was 2nded and all agreed with no oppositions or abstains.

### **Respectfully submitted**

Soo Yi Thompson



## **Last Page Laugh**

by Tom Kaylor

*Harry, the hard-nosed local politician who rode his bicycle to work every day was known to be, at times, somewhat "OUT-SPOKEN."*

# 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  
PO BOX 99602  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

Your cancelled 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, NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

MEETING WILL BE LOCATED IN JOHN MORROW AUDITORIUM. 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



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