



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 54
ISSUE 5

CITIZENS REPORT

November 2024



Bright the Night Returns



PHOTO BY VAL VESA ON UNSPLASH

Welcome the holiday season with your Brighton Heights neighbors as Bright the Night returns to Legion Park on Saturday, December 7th from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

This year's event is sure to get everyone into the holiday spirit, offering family-friendly holiday activities, holiday market vendors, food trucks, live musical performances by local school performers and much, much more!

Stay tuned to the BHCF website and follow BHCF social media accounts for more information on this year's event. If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a financial sponsor for the event, please reach out to Stacy Slie at stacey.slie@gmail.com or Ali Fischer at aliwfischer@gmail.com for more information.

WHEN:

Saturday, December 7, 2024

WHERE:

Legion Memorial Park

TIME:

3:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

John Morrow Auditorium

p. 2 President's Report	p. 5 Thanksgiving Meal Delivery	p. 7 House Tour Review	p. 9 Peace Rally Review	p. 10 Halloween Parade Review	p. 12 Senator Fontana	p. 12 Councilman Bobby Wilson	p. 13 State Rep Emily Kinkead	p. 14 Review of Last General Meeting
----------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---



From the Federation President

by Joseph Glassbrenner

Time is truly flying by. As I write these newsletter reports it gives me time to reflect and review for myself what each season has brought. As I review, I can say BHCF has done a lot!

In October, we concluded our summer into fall event series at Legion Memorial Park. If you missed it, the event began in May one Saturday a month up through October, where the Allegheny City Brewing and BHCF hosted music, vendors, children's activities, food, and of course beverages from ACB. I've heard so many compliments and support from people in the community who saw the event as a positive and enjoyable evening for all to join. To answer some of the questions about its return, I can say it is the intention to reorganize this again for next year.

We were blessed with another beautiful day for this year's annual House Tour. I was fortunate enough to find a babysitter for the day so my wife Taylor and I could take in the charm and support this year's very successful 2024 Brighton Heights House Tour. Thanks again to those who volunteered your homes. My hat goes off to Jon Ebeck, Ray Carter, and the entire House Tour Committee for showcasing our neighborhood in such a special way.

Progress has been made in regard to safety and sidewalk requests surrounding Marmaduke Park as well as the 2023 capital budget improvement project. Please see the photos and captions for the Marmaduke Park entrance sidewalk installation. At the request of resident park-goers, we were able, with the help of Councilman Wilson, to petition the city to install sidewalks at both the Hiawatha and Bonaventure St. entrances to Marmaduke Park. This will create much safer access to the park. As for the park upgrades, the city has uploaded a Marmaduke Playground tab on the Engage Page for input and details on the Marmaduke Playground upgrades. Please visit the site here: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/marmaduke-playground> and provide your input.

I was able to get an update on the delays in progress with the Brighton Heights Healthy Active Living Center (HALC). After initially hosting the DAM in January, the schedule was to receive bids in March and award a construction contract. I've been informed the architectural drawings were lacking key components to the HVAC system and IT portion that delayed the bidding process. The City DPW is working with the architects to draw these key components and get them back out to bid.

An urgent BHCF land use meeting was scheduled in the beginning of October to review and understand new legislation in regard to changes in terms, definitions, and use of housing. The changes will be heard and proposed by the Planning Commission and ultimately voted on by the City Council. If you wish to learn more about the changes and

what the impacts could be, please get in touch with our Land Use Chair Nick Petrillo or contact your Councilperson directly. They do require some explanation and understanding of zoning to comprehend the changes completely.

The last update I have is about the momentum BHCF has to incorporate vegetable gardens on properties in Brighton Heights. The St. John's site has space designed to encompass the vegetable garden mission. A meeting is scheduled with the St. John's owners Allegheny Land Trust (ALT), BHCF volunteers, and Grow Pittsburgh on October 29 to discuss ideas, design, and integration into the site. At the time of this writing the meeting has not yet taken place. Updates will come at the November 14 General Membership Meeting. If you have an interest in vegetable gardens and wish to join the planning or design, please contact the BHCF.

Thanks to all the friends, families, and children who took part in our annual Halloween Parade on October 26. The BHCF parade has a long-standing tradition. It's great to see our children enjoy the fun, candy, and prizes. Thank you to Danielle Graham Robinson for organizing this year's parade.

I'd like to thank all our Veterans for their service to our country and wish them a Happy Veteran's Day on November 11. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season. As a reminder, please join us for the second annual Bright the Night holiday event on December 7 at Legion Memorial Park where we will surely spread some holiday cheer.

Our next General Membership Meeting is Thursday November 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Morrow School auditorium. Thank you all for doing your part to support us.

And as always, I'll see you in the neighborhood.

Newsletter Membership Notice

The BHCF wishes to thank everyone for their support of our organization with your membership. We are again conducting a newsletter audit to conserve the volunteer resources of newsletter processing and save mailing cost so our efforts can go further. It has been noted that a large number of our membership list has expired memberships in excess of multiple years. Please note, as an effort to conserve resources, those memberships over 2 years expired will be removed from our mailing list. If you are still interested in maintaining your membership, please contact us. You may mail or PayPal the membership dues by January 1, 2025.

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
 Manager: Regina Kolodziej
 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: Todd McCollum

Directors

Judy Bendtsen, Stacy Berkebile, Bill Goodrich, Parker Goolsby, Janice Johns-Engelman (Emeritus), Regina Kolodziej, Donna Kramer, Tim Maloney, Seth McClarey, Nick Petrillo, Raymond Robinson, Soo Yi Thompson, Ryan Yesenchak

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

Community Conversation with One Northside

One Northside (ONS) is hosting a community conversation to provide an update and gather your input on our resident engagement efforts. Your input on what works best for you and your Northside neighbors is critical as we build tools and resources to support all Northside residents.

This is an opportunity to share your ideas, voice concerns, and help shape the needs and priorities of the Northside community.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Overview of One Northside (current and future projects)
- Breakout sessions for community input on ONS resident engagement efforts
- Light Refreshments
- Play area for children

Your voice matters to us as we continue to build a thriving and inclusive Northside community. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, November 20!

WHEN:

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

WHERE:

Colab18 at Nova Place

TIME:

5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

RSVP:

Porter@onenorthsidepgh.org

BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024

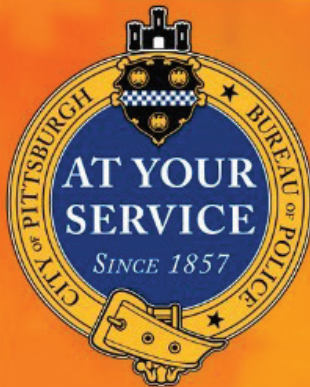
ONE NORTHSIDE IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE BUHL FOUNDATION THAT BRINGS RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL NORTHSIDERS.



Pittsburgh Police and Community Cares Annual Thanksgiving Meal Delivery

Need a meal this November 28?

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, alongside community and law enforcement partners, will once again be hand-delivering meals to those who are in need this Thanksgiving!



**PLEASE
CONTACT:**

.....
Dr. Staci Ford at
(412) 277-4616

**OR Officer
Nicole Kolesar
at (412) 512-3011**

Neighborhood Watch Committee

Please plan to attend the November General Membership meeting for dog safety tips presentation by our Neighbors Michael Cunningham and Luis Rosa, owners of Two Dads Dog Training.

As Autumn has arrived and the leaves are beginning to fall, sweep the dried leaves off your property steps, porches and sidewalks to prevent you and your neighbors from slipping.

Time to change the batteries in smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Remember to adjust the timers on your outdoor

lighting for Day light Savings Time. Remember to lock your cars. As always, If you see something say something by calling 911.

Brighton Heights Neighborhood Watch Committee welcomes you to contact Peter Bianchi at Elsamarie2010@gmail.com to learn more about the Neighborhood Watch.

November Board of Directors Election

At the September General Membership Meeting, the Chair of the Nominating Committee presented nominations for Elected Director positions.

Those presented were current Directors:

- Stacey Berkebile
- Parker Goolsby
- Regina Kolodziej
- Nicholas Petrillo
- Soo Yi Thompson
- Ryan Yesenchak

No additional nominations were made from the floor during the meeting.

nominated will be up for election at the November General Membership Meeting.

Let's Get Festive!

from Ryan Yesenchak and Stacy Berkebile

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation and the Bright the Night committee have made Christmas ornaments for 2024 to raise funds for Bright the Night and future events in the community. We have plenty left now, but once they are gone, they are gone . . . don't delay! You can buy your ornament at the upcoming BHCF meeting on November 14 or by emailing sंबरkebile@gmail.com with the subject "Ornament Order." The cost is \$8; we accept cash, Venmo, and PayPal payments. Once you send an email, we will reach out for payment arrangements and a volunteer will deliver

your ornament within a week or so. These make great gifts for your favorite neighbors and are a jolly way to support your community!



Sweet Summer Series

from Ryan Yesenchak, Parker Goolsby, Stacy Berkebile

If you missed the Summer Series in Legion Park with our friends at Allegheny City Brewing (ACB), then you missed out! This series of events began in May and ran through October, on the first Saturday of each month. Even if you aren't a beer drinker, there was so much fun to be had! You could eat at food trucks, shop small from our vendors, or just pull out a blanket and enjoy the live music! Children enjoyed lawn games and chasing their friends around, while dogs got to sniff the smells and meet other neighborhood pups.

The best part was you – our neighbors. Thank you for coming out and having a blast. We had six events with fantastic turnouts, no major issues, and mostly beautiful weather. If you would like to see more events like these, we would love to have you volunteer with planning events in the future! Reach out to BrightonHeights@gmail.com and let us know you are interested in getting involved with community events. We would love to have you! And be sure to reach out to ACB and let them know that you enjoyed the events. They made this possible and we hope they will join us for more events in the future!

Brighton Heights House Tour Recap: A Resounding Success

On Saturday, September 7, the Brighton Heights community buzzed with excitement as we celebrated our annual House Tour. Attendees were delighted by the stunning homes, the warm hospitality of homeowners, and the seamless organization of the event, which collectively created a memorable experience that truly embodied the spirit of our neighborhood.

This year's tour featured a remarkable selection of ten properties, including nine exquisite homes and a breathtaking native garden. We made significant advancements in our organizational capabilities by introducing new communication tools such as a dedicated email address, social media accounts, and shared Cloud storage. These enhancements facilitated better collaboration among committee members and ensured the event ran smoothly.

Our marketing efforts were met with great success, resulting in extensive media coverage from prestigious outlets like KDKA CBS Morning, Pittsburgh Magazine, and NEXT Pittsburgh. This exposure allowed us to forgo paid advertising, leading to considerable cost savings. Additionally, our partnership with Allegheny City Brewery, which aligned their Summer Series with our tour, streamlined our efforts and enriched the overall experience for attendees.

We are thrilled to announce a remarkable fundraising achievement, generating \$12,032 for 2024—an impressive increase compared to previous years. Early commitments from local businesses for next year's event are already coming in, and we are particularly excited about our investment in high-quality, reusable signage, which will enhance cost efficiency and support our sustainability goals.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and supported the House Tour! If you're interested in having your home featured in next year's event, please reach out to us at brightonheightshousetour@gmail.com. We can't wait to see you next year!



Garbage Olympics Review

We had a beautiful, warm morning for the 8th Annual Garbage Olympics. This event was created by the Clean Pittsburgh Commission and is held throughout the City on the 3rd Saturday of September to encourage residents to participate in picking up their neighborhoods and connecting with each other.

There were 35 volunteers who came out to clean up our neighborhood. A special thanks to Eric Newman and Cub Scout Pack 348 who made our day! (If you have a child between kindergarten and 5th grade who might be interested in the scouting experience, please reach out to Eric at esnewman@hotmail.com).

Altogether, we picked up over 30 large trash bags, along with tires, an old grocery cart, baby stroller, library card and other interesting things. It is always fun to see what we can find!

There was an after-party at Velum Fermentation, which is an interesting brew/pub space with a pickleball court and arcade area. Brighton Heights did not win any prizes, but we held our own with the number of volunteers and amount of trash picked up!

A shout out to Elaine Gloeckner for picking up the donuts and juices and The Dirt Doctors for providing coffee and bagels!

I would like 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 by emailing dirtdoctim@msn.com. If each of us does a little bit, we can keep our neighborhood looking beautiful throughout the year!

See you on Saturday, April 19, 2025 (Saturday before Earth Day) for the Spring Clean-up Event. Mark it on your calendar now so you don't forget!



Prayer for Peace Rally Review

Despite the gloomy, muggy weather, the spirits were bright as four Northside churches and the community gathered to pray and sing for peace at an Interdenominational Prayer Rally for Peace hosted by Christ Our Savior Parish on Saturday September 28 at 11 am in the courtyard of Christ Our Savior Parish -St. Cyril. All churches of all denominations and everyone in the community were invited to attend. There was an all-star line-up of faith leaders as speakers; each message was unique, powerful, and inspirational. Deacon Michael Fekete, Pastoral Associate, Christ Our Savior Parish welcomed everyone with an opening prayer. All attendees and choirs sang "Amazing Grace." Reverend Brenda Gregg, Senior Pastor, Destiny of Faith Church, reminded us of the time is now to "Sound the alarm for seeking peace." Destiny of Faith Choir, led by Deacon Eric Williams had the crowd on their feet, clapping and we all sang along to "How Great is Our God." Pastor Parker Kantos, Brighton Heights Lutheran Church, shared that he was born into conflicts, reading all the world conflicts over the past 30 years. When is the time for peace? If not now . . . when? Christ Our Savior Choir, led by Dr. Josie Merlino sang "Prayer for Peace." Reverend Steve Werth, Senior Pastor, Riverview United Presbyterian Church, stated "Do not let the troubles of the world... weigh you down, keep doing good, seeking peace." Rev. Werth read the names of every victim of gun violence in Pittsburgh over the past year. It was very moving and powerful hearing each person's name, reminding us of the value of human life. Christ Our Savior Choir sang "The Prayer of St. Francis." Reverend Nicholas Vaskov, Pastor, Christ Our Savior Parish shared a personal family story and reminded us to see peace in the ordinary. As drops of rain fell from the sky, Fr. Nick told us to be more like little children embracing the rain and puddles as a sign

of God's love pouring down on us! We all sang "Jerusalem my Destiny." Mrs. Rosanne Kwiatkowski, Principal of Northside Catholic Assumption Academy, shared a beautiful closing prayer echoing words from Mother Teresa. All speakers reminded us that although acts of violence and division take place in our communities and across the world, the work of peace is ours. The more we become God's instruments of peace, the more peace shall reign in the world. With the elections right around the corner, we need peace now more than ever. It was wonderful seeing everyone coming together. It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood! Sorry if you missed this meaningful community event. We hope to see you next year – stay tuned!



Halloween Parade Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered to make the annual Brighton Heights Halloween Parade a success! Many people came together to provide candy, stuff bags, and do all the behind the scenes planning to carry on such a beloved neighborhood tradition. I want to take a moment to recognize those who went the extra mile to make all of this possible, not only to show appreciation for their efforts, but to also motivate our neighbors to consider volunteering in the future. None of this is possible without help from our community! Thank you to everyone for showing up on Parade day ready to help as well as thanks to Zone 1 Police and Engine 35!

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR...

FINANCIAL SPONSORS

- Brad & Carrie Richards (The Humble Barber Co.)
- Karis Bowman (California Coffee Bar)
- Billy Goodrich (Goodrich & Geist Personal Injury Law)
- District 1 Councilman Bobby Wilson
- Danielle Graham Robinson (Berkshire Hathaway Home Services)
Full disclosure, that's me!

COSTUME JUDGES

- Judge Leah Williams Duncan
- Pat Lewis
- Julie (from Woods Run Library)

COSTUME CONTEST PRIZE DONORS

- Donna Kramer (Build-A-Bear)
- District Magistrate Leah Williams Duncan
- Ryan Graham (Graham's Barbershop)
- Devon Jennings (generous neighbor!)
- Brad & Carrie Richards (The Humble Barber Co.)
- Eat-N-Park

THE HALLOWEEN PARADE COMMITTEE!!!

Danielle Graham Robinson-Chair, Carrie Richards, Brad Richards, Cynthia Billisits, Lia Milgram, Josh Nard, Jenn Skertich

CANDY DONORS

Hilary Brown, Diane (Kleber Ave), Stacey Yaras, Kristin Frankovich, Parker Goolsby, Stacy Berkebile, Ryan Yesenchak, Patrick Dempsey, Julia Cocciola, Jenn Skertich, Gwen Nolte, Michele Cvetkovic, Jennifer Shumar, Deb White, Penny Platek, Ashley Fernandez, Rachael Heisler, and all the donors who dropped candy off at The Humble Barber Co.!

PUMPKIN GO-GETTER

Chris Old

PARADE HELPERS

Raymond Robinson, John Doran, Katharine Hayes, Sherri Hickernell, Coyote Amrich, Chrissy Johnston, Nicolas Nesbitt, Regina Kolodziej, Stella Petraglia, Rick Weiss, Megan Graham, Kim Larsen

CANDY BAG STUFFERS

Carrie Richards, Brad Richards, Stacy Berkebile and friends (Ryan, Parker & Jenn – don't know last names!), Patrick Brannan, William Magdziaz, Dawn Magdziaz, Jackie Clegg, Nick Duarte, and anyone who showed up whose names weren't relayed to me!

THE BHCF BOARD

Thank you to Joe Glassbrenner, Stacy Berkebile and any other board members I may be forgetting for their support in tying up loose ends, wrangling volunteers, finding pumpkin and hay bale donations, unlocking doors, stuffing candy bags and providing general help with odds and ends.

PARTICIPATING ACTIVITY PARTNERS

- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (Woods Run)
- Alcosan
- Emmanuel Christian Church
- Pittsburgh Public Schools
- State Rep. Emily Kinkead

I would also like to thank Taylor Glassbrenner, the Parade's Chair for the previous couple of years, for handing off the notes from last year and helping this year's Parade have a smooth transition and continuation! I look forward to handing off this year's notes to whoever wants to chair the parade next year!! **IS IT YOU!? :-)**



Halloween Parade Thank You

IMAGES CONTINUED . . .



Safety Updates and Marmaduke Park Entrances



With the exception of painted crosswalk lines the raised island crosswalk and asphalt repairs at Millerton St. and Ohio River Blvd have been made after utility work crews dug through this section in September of 2023.



New concrete curb, sidewalk, and ADA ramps are installed on October 20 at Marmaduke Park South entrance. The sidewalks will connect Marmaduke St., Stonelea St. and Hiawatha St. directly into the Park.



Sidewalk framing and form work began on October 16 at the South entrance to Marmaduke Park at the intersection of Stonelea St. and Hiawatha St.



Crews began construction on sidewalks at the North entrance to Marmaduke park on October 15. New sidewalks are being added on Bonaventure St., Perrott St. and Oswald St.

From Councilman Bobby Wilson

Hello Brighton Heights! I have a few updates I'd like to share about projects in Brighton Heights as well as citywide initiatives that affect us all.

The spray park and playground at Marmaduke Park are in the beginning phase of the reconstruction project which received \$400K in the 2024 Capital Budget. The intended work includes building a new playground and safety surface, upgrading the hardscape and walkways, and selecting updated spray features.

The Department of Public Works is currently conducting a survey to collect feedback from the community on what types of improvements they would like to see. Please review the project and take the survey on the Engage Page, <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/marmaduke-playground>.

In January 2022, the Department of City Planning published the Pittsburgh Housing Needs Assessment which provided a comprehensive understanding of housing needs and trending conditions across all household incomes and housing typologies. The assessment established an objective, data driven resource on the housing market to guide future policy decisions. Based on the report, the Department of City Planning announced a series of zoning reforms designed to increase and diversify Pittsburgh's housing supply, lower housing costs, and provide opportunities for residents of all income levels to find housing they can afford in neighborhoods across the city.

These reforms include accessory dwelling units (ADU), inclusionary zoning (IZ), transit-oriented development (TOD), parking reform, minimum lot size reform, and residential rezoning. I highly recommend reviewing each policy reform and sharing your critical feedback via the Engage Page found at <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/implementing-housing-needs-assessment>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at a method below. My staff and I look forward to hearing from you!

CONTACT: Bobby Wilson, Councilman, District 1

PHONE: 412-255-2135

EMAIL: district1@pittsburghpa.gov

X (FORMERLY TWITTER): @Dist1Pgh

FACEBOOK: Office of Councilman Bobby Wilson

INSTAGRAM: @councilmanbobbywilson

Time Running out to Apply for 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebate

Time is running out if you haven't applied yet for a property tax or rent rebate!

Earlier this year, the deadline for eligible Pennsylvanians to apply for rebates on rent and property taxes paid in 2023 was extended from June 30 to Dec. 31, 2024.

As a reminder, the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program has been expanded. Anyone 65 and older, widows and widowers 50 and older, and people with disabilities 18 and older who have a household income of less than \$45,000 are eligible to apply. Please note that half of Social Security income is excluded. The maximum standard rebate has also been increased and is reflected below:

INCOME	MAXIMUM REBATE
\$0-\$8,000	\$1,000
\$8,001-\$15,000	\$770
\$15,001-\$18,000	\$460
\$18,001-\$45,000	\$380

Eligible applicants of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program are encouraged to file their rebate applications online by visiting <https://mypath.pa.gov/>. This online filing option makes it simple to submit the PTRR application and the supporting documentation needed to verify each applicant's eligibility.

As always, my staff is able to assist applicants with filing for their rebate. Call the Brookline office at 412-344-2551 or Kennedy office at 412-331-1208 to schedule an appointment.

I'd also like to remind everyone that I publish an online newsletter each Tuesday. My ENews focuses on state issues, legislation and happenings within the district. You can receive these weekly News & Views editions by signing up at www.senatorfontana.com.

CONTACT: Senator Wayne D. Fontana,
42nd Senatorial District

PHONE: 412-344-2551

EMAIL: fontana@pasenate.com

WEBSITE: www.senatorfontana.com

TWITTER: @WayneDFontana



From State Rep. Emily Kinhead

A BOLD STEP FOR PENNSYLVANIA: LEGALIZING RECREATIONAL CANNABIS

Pennsylvania is at a pivotal moment. As a state legislator, I am proud to have introduced a new bipartisan bill (HB 2500) that would legalize cannabis for recreational use across the Commonwealth. I realize this may be a controversial issue for some, so I wanted to take some time to provide critical background behind this important effort. Making cannabis legal for recreational use is more than just a matter of keeping up with the times—it's about justice, public health, and generating much-needed revenue for our state.

Let's start with the most critical piece of this puzzle: criminal justice reform. For decades, cannabis-related arrests have disproportionately targeted communities of color, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. We have witnessed far too many lives derailed by minor, non-violent drug offenses. Legalizing cannabis will not only end the senseless criminalization of those who use it recreationally but also allow us to expunge the records of thousands of Pennsylvanians who have been unjustly penalized under outdated laws. Beyond that, it allows our district attorneys to focus their limited resources on pursuing justice in incidents of violent crime that make our communities unsafe. This is a powerful and fiscally responsible step toward righting the wrongs of the past and ensuring community safety moving forward.

Secondly, the economic argument for legalizing cannabis is clear. Pennsylvania is surrounded by states—New Jersey, New York, Maryland, and even Ohio—that have already legalized recreational use. And those states are taking advantage of our failure to enter this market by setting up their dispensaries right next to our borders. Our residents are crossing state lines to spend their money in those states, contributing to their economies while ours continues to miss out. By legalizing cannabis, we would keep that revenue within our borders, directing it toward critical public services like education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Estimates suggest that legal cannabis could generate tens of thousands of good-paying jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars annually in tax revenue for Pennsylvania, revenue that we can reinvest in our communities and improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

But there's another, often overlooked, aspect of this bill that is just as important: improving access to cannabis for

medical patients. Right now, many Pennsylvanians who use cannabis to manage chronic pain, anxiety, PTSD, and other serious conditions are faced with the financial burden of renewing their medical cannabis license every year. For some, these fees are simply too expensive, making it difficult for them to get the medicine they need. By legalizing recreational cannabis, we make it more readily available to those who depend on it for medical purposes, without the cost-prohibitive barriers of the current system.

I recognize that some may have concerns about legalizing recreational cannabis, but it's important to note that legalization does not mean a lack of regulation. In fact, this bill would ensure that cannabis is produced and sold under strict safety standards, protecting consumers and keeping it out of the hands of minors. Additionally, my bill also regulates the synthetic industry that is already taking hold through vape shops all around our communities in an entirely unregulated manner. At the same time, we would have the tools to address impaired driving and other public safety concerns because my bill would provide funds to counties, municipalities, and law enforcement specifically to carry out enforcement of this law.

The reality is that the conversation around cannabis has evolved, and Pennsylvanians stand to gain more if we evolve with it. We cannot afford to fall behind our neighbors while perpetuating an unjust system that penalizes some of our most vulnerable citizens. This bill is a step forward for justice, for public health, and for our state's economy. I hope sharing the motivation behind this bill provides a balanced understanding as to why this issue is so important to me and the constituents I serve.

As always, if you have any questions about any legislation or state-related matters, please contact my office by phone or email below.

CONTACT: Emily Kinhead, State Representative, District 20

PHONE: 412-321-5523

EMAIL: RepKinhead@pahouse.net

ADDRESS: 658 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue

WEBSITE: <https://www.pahouse.com/kinhead>

TWITTER: @RepKinhead

FACEBOOK: Rep. Emily Kinhead

INSTAGRAM: @repkinhead

MINUTES (Review of Previous General Membership Meeting)

September 12, 2024

- Approximately 40 persons attended, attendance by sign-in.
- Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Motion to approve the Minutes from May's General Membership meeting as presented in the newsletter by John Belch; second by Donna Kramer; motion passes.

Special Guests: Pittsburgh Police

- Zone 1 Lieutenant presented crime stats and fielded questions from the body.

Councilman Wilson's Office Jordyn Gilliland

- DOMI's old signs on Brighton Heights Blvd. are down.
- The city will conduct a safety survey at the five-points intersection.
- Work at Marmaduke Park will tentatively start soon; work to continue through the fall of 2025.
- Use the Engage Page for information.

Representative Kincaid's Office Danielle Graham Robinson

- Senior fair on October 17th at the Ross Municipal Building.
- Go to vote.pa.com for voter registration and change of address; last day to register to vote is October 21st.

School Board Devon Taliaferro

- Closings will happen in the Brighton Heights area.
- Tomorrow will become grades K through 5.
- King will become grades 6 through 8.
- King will feed to Perry High School.
- Students will move to the lower building after renovations happen.

- Questions on what will happen to Morrow, once students are moved out of that building; public meetings will be held to decide.

Guests: Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Mora McLaughlin

- Gave an audio-visual presentation on Brighton Heights water main replacement.
- Handouts were available.
- Work is being done by independent enterprises.

Northside Leadership Conference Dylan Lukitsch

- Introducing himself as the new director and a person who loves entrepreneurship.
- Conference has a grant program available for \$10,000 for food and beverages for outside dining; flyer available.

Report of Officers and Others:

President's Report Joseph Glassbrenner

- Riverview Park Day is October 6th.

Vice President's Report Brendan Delaney

- See subcommittee reports.

Corresponding Secretary

- 262 welcome bags since 2022.
- 447 newsletters went out.

Treasurer's Report

- Land Use has \$5,116 .
- Operating has \$17,272.02.
- Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Donna Kramer; second by Elaine Gloeckner; motion passes.

Report of Committees:

Gardens and Greenspaces Ed Gergerich

- See information in the newsletter.
- Weeds have been cleared on Route 65.

Memorial Day Donna Kramer

- Thanks to all those involved for a successful Memorial Day weekend.
- Looking for help planning for next year's Memorial Day weekend.
- Meetings will start in January.

Public Safety

- We will renew our effort to work with One Pittsburgh on public safety issues.

Clean Up

- The Garbage Olympics will be held September 21st with an after-party.
- Meet at All Saints Church.

Build Your Wealth in the Trades

- No report.

Land Use

- Two vacant properties on California Ave. are sold.
- House on California Ave. is under an agreement pending a federal grant available later this year.
- Fleming Ave. property to be renovated and then sold.
- The Strategic Plan is proving fruitful.

House Tour

- Thanks to all that have been involved.

Halloween Parade

- Halloween parade will be October 26th starting at noon, rain or shine.
- We will be having a costume drive prior to the parade.
- Looking for candy donations; donations can be dropped off at The Humble Barber or a donation through the QR code.
- There is also a flyer available for the Halloween Parade.

Bright the Night

- The date for the event is December 7th; rain date is December 8th.

Northside Leadership Conference

- Five Brighton Heights residents have received \$1000 grants for continuing education.
- Joe and Elaine attended the sponsored Northside Leadership Conference luncheon.

Nominating Committee

- Nominations for the board are Donna Kramer, Stacy Berkebile, Regina Kolodzie, Nick Petrillo, Soo Youn Yi, and Parker Goolsby.
- The body was asked if there were any nominations from the floor.
- No nominations were brought from the floor.
- Motion to accept the nominations by Jen Skervic; second by John Belch; motion passes.

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- No new business.

Anything for the Good of the Federation

- An upcoming peace rally will be held at Saint Cyril.
- A warning for house sales in Brighton Heights that scammers are going around working with an agent or an attorney if you're looking to sell houses.
- ALCOSAN open house this weekend, September 14-15th.
- Motion to adjourn by Donna Kramer; second by Nick Petrillo; meeting adjourned.

Adjournment.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Todd McCollum



Last Page Laugh

by Tom Kaylor

Q: What title might be given to those school teachers who feel somewhat unchallenged and discontent with their employment?

A: The BORED OF PUBLIC EDUCATION!

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

THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

MEETING WILL BE LOCATED IN JOHN MORROW AUDITORIUM. 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
PO Box 99602
Pittsburgh, PA 15233