



BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 55
ISSUE 3

CITIZENS REPORT

May 2025



Memorial Day at Legion Park on Monday, May 26

Brighton Heights Memorial Day Observance takes place May 26 at Legion Park on the corner of Davis Avenue and Brighton Road. It starts at 10:00 a.m. As there is no seating, please bring a chair.

This is the 79th year that Brighton Heights will be observing Memorial Day. Please attend to honor those who sacrificed their life for our freedom.



On Friday, May 23, the placing of flags will take place at Highwood Cemetery at 2900 Brighton Road, starting at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to help in this event to honor those who have gone before us. Look for flag signs at the entrance.



PHOTO BY DANIEL FOSTER ON UNSPLASH

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.

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From the Federation President

by Joseph Glassbrenner

As each season rolls by, I am always most excited to write the May President's report. It has me acknowledging the fact that summer is just about here. The sun is shining, plants are growing, and our residents

are outside. Our streets are glowing with a vibrancy that each of us create with a caring attitude and supportive spirit.

This spring is no different than years past as the activity list is high and many new events are here to stay, such as the ACB/ BHCf Summer Series taking place on May 3. Please see the article and flyer in this newsletter and remember that they are every first Saturday, May thru October. Please come out again if you liked the shows last year and this year bring a friend.

I will stay in our May events for a bit longer as a reminder to all of the need to support the maintenance of our community gardens with volunteer days on all Saturdays in the month of May. Kim Larsen stewards the Legion Park and Ed Gergerich stewards the Termon/California intersection (or TC3) as he calls it. Please contact the BHCf via Facebook, phone, or email to be connected with either steward and find out ways to help keep these gardens beautiful.

May has a long anticipated ribbon cutting planned for the new Davis Ave. bike and pedestrian bridge. It was exciting to see this project become a reality after many years of planning and support from many different groups. We have arrived at the completion and all look forward to using the bridge to access the great Riverview Park. Please look for an email or follow our Facebook page for the exact date and time the ribbon cutting ceremony will be held. It's anticipated to open by the end of the month and all are welcome to take part when the City selects a date and time.

We will conclude May as we always do: by honoring those who gave it all for our country at our Memorial Day Ceremony on May 26 at 10 a.m. at Legion Park. All details are on the cover of this newsletter. Please note the event is sponsored by the American Legion and volunteers are needed for the day of events. Please contact Donna Kramer at 412-608-2761 to offer help.

Thank you to everyone who purchased flowers this year through our Plant Sale Fundraiser! This is a great opportunity to make your yard or spaces even more beautiful all summer long. Please join me in thanking Jenn Skirtich and Melanie Panutsos, who organized the entire sale, order forms, purchase, and distribution. These two made it possible!

There is finally progress on the Brighton Heights Healthy Active Living Center (HALC). A proposal meeting was held for contractors on April 21. The project is properly out to

bid with the deadline to receive all bids set for May 16. The contract will be awarded in June with construction to start some time after that.

It has been brought to my attention that the PRT (or Pittsburgh Regional Transit) is facing a multi-million dollar deficit for next year's budget. Due to the deficit, the PRT is proposing a number of cuts to service and the possibility of raising fares. There are many more details to the issues the PRT is facing on their website at ridePRT.org. Your input is being sought and public comment can be taken by calling 412-566-5525.

I will conclude by reminding everyone our next General Membership Meeting will be on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. at John Morrow School auditorium. Have a Happy Memorial Day and a great summer.

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

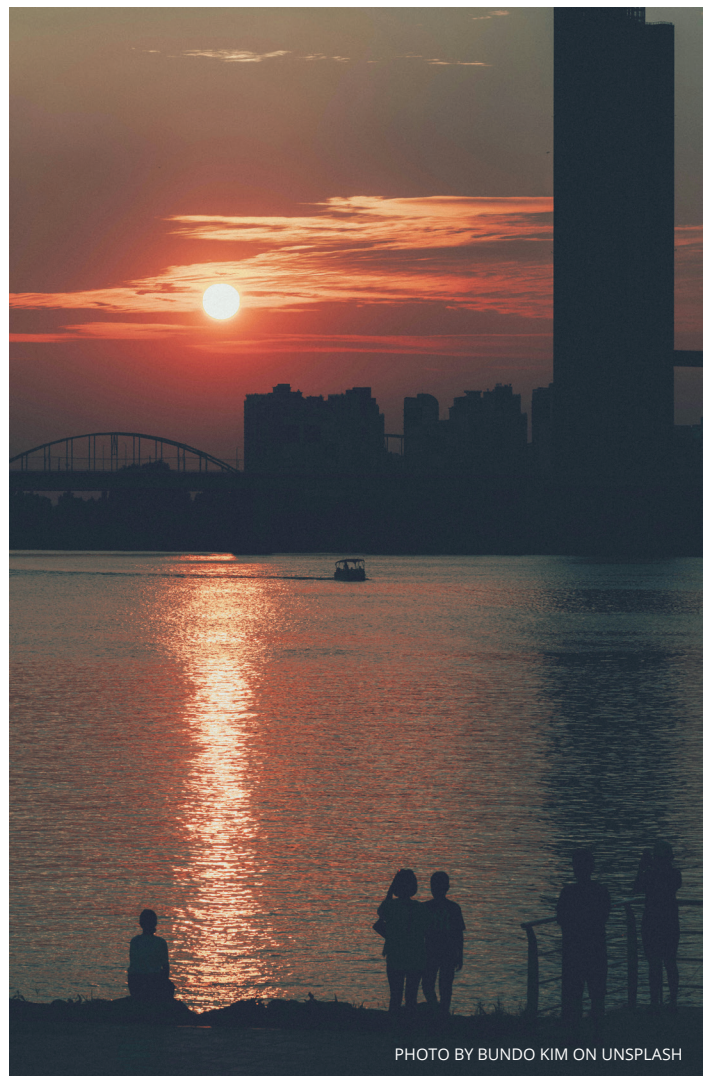


PHOTO BY BUNDO KIM ON UNSPLASH

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.

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

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The United Way #188

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

Any member making a United Way donation receives free membership in the Federation. Usually paperwork does not catch up to us until the year after the donation.

Membership Renewal

Check the date after your name on your mailing label and make sure your membership is up to date. If it is not, please renew your membership now, either by sending in a renewal with the form on the back of the newsletter, or by going to our website online and renewing it by PayPal.

BHCF Information List	
BHCF Answer Line:	412-690-0918
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



Meet the Board: Judith Bendtsen

I was born at St. John's Hospital on McClure Avenue in Brighton Heights and have lived right off or near Brighton Road most of my life on the Northside and in the North Boroughs (Ben Avon).

As a child I lived in several areas of the Northside. In the early 1950's I lived on Central Ave. (off Woods Run) in the barracks (where fire house is now). The streetcar turnaround was across from the barracks. Eventually Woods Run Library was built there. I was nine when we moved to Ben Avon where I lived on a street off of Brighton Road. I graduated from Avonworth in 1961.

My dad got a job in Ohio and the family moved there, where I got a job at a hospital office. My family moved back to Ben Avon and I got a job at Suburban General Hospital in Bellevue as a secretary in the laboratory. Got married and moved to Butler County and had two kids then moved back to Pittsburgh after seven years. Bought a house on Richbarn Road (right off Brighton Road near Kleber). Got hired by St. John's Hospital to work in the lab. Then a laboratory that started in the Pittsburgh area, Med Chek, took over running St. John's lab and they hired me. Med Chek closed St. John's lab and moved out to Ross Township. Through several years of combining with various labs and having several different names, we finally moved to Greentree and ended up being called Quest Diagnostics, which is a leading provider of diagnostic information services. Quest Diagnostics paid for my college education. I got my Bachelor's degree in Health Services Management from Robert Morris College in 2001, forty years after I graduated from Avonworth. I retired from Quest in December of 2012.

I belong to Christ Our Savior Parish. I am a member of the choir where we rotate to each of the three separate church buildings in the parish. I am a member of the Pastoral Council, the Community Diversity and Outreach Committee and the Faith in Fellowship Committee at Christ Our Savior.

I've been a member of BHCF for many years (can't remember exactly how many years). I didn't belong to the BHCF Board, but they said people were allowed to attend the meetings, just couldn't vote if not an actual Board member. So, I attended Board meetings and ended up joining the Board when they announced they needed more members to fill the required board memberships.

Involved in many BHCF activities including the Garbage Olympics, the First Fridays in Legion Park in the summer, the Porch Parties, the House Tours and Bright the Night. I belong to FORP (Friends of Riverview Park), a group dedicated to working with the Pittsburgh Parks to taking care of one of the greatest parks in Pittsburgh. Looking forward to having the Davis Ave. bridge back for the Run in the Park!

In my back yard I share the red brick wall with Little Sisters of the Poor. There are quite a few houses around the Little Sisters whose properties share the wall. One of the employees was kidding me and said that we should dig a hole in my wall so I can get up to Little Sisters faster. I volunteer a great deal at the Little Sisters of the Poor!



Brighton Heights Citizens Federation
& Allegheny City Brewing Co. Present:



SUMMER SERIES



in Legion Park from 4pm to 8pm
(Intersection of Davis Ave, Brighton Rd, and Shadeland Ave)

The Brighton Heights Summer Series Returns May 3

Allegheny City Brewing and BHCF present Summer Series 2025! Join us in Legion Park from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month through October. We will conclude with our House Tour and end-of-series celebration on October 4. There will be vendors, food trucks, music, and a great time to hang with neighbors.

This Summer Series would not be possible without help from our local elected officials and individual donors. A specific donor we'd like to spotlight is the law firm Schaffranek and Foster – a Brighton Heights resident whose law firm specializes in family and estate matters. They are here to help with all your legal needs.

Bring a blanket, chairs, lawn games, and yourself down to Legion Park where you can buy beer from ACB and enjoy the season with your community. Can't wait to see you there.



Gardens and Greenspaces

From Ed Gergerich

This is the 30th anniversary of our gateway community gardens. Susan Benn recently sent me an article from our 2012 newsletter that she and Joan Bellisario wrote about the establishment of the gardens. It's a history lesson for folks who have lived here since 1995 and a bit of nostalgia for long timers. Enjoy:

History Of The Flower Gardens

The first documented record of the Brighton Heights flower gardens appeared in a July 1995 community newsletter taking place on May 27, 1995. It was made possible through the support of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the City of Pittsburgh, with the City offering great assistance. Over 40 volunteers planted thousands of flowers that year, with over 100 volunteers showing up the following year. The private owners of two vacant lots and one homeowner lent their properties to the effort. California Avenue business neighbors were very supportive also.

The gardens continued under the same sponsorship until 2004 when the Conservancy decided that they could no longer fund flowers on private land and withdrew their support. The community rallied with donations to keep the gardens alive. The Brighton Heights Citizens Federation, looking forward, began to design the annual flowers with perennials as a backdrop.

Then in 2007, the city ceased funding, but again the community rallied to provide support. We worked to win a city "Green-up" award for a vacant lot on the corner of our portal intersection. We worked with City arborists to design extensive landscaping with tree plantings to supplement our annual flower border. Now in 2012 our perennial gardens are thriving, making our need for annual flower purchases more manageable. This eventually led the community to

petition the city to plant more trees on our streets and along the "great wall" leading up to the corners from Route 65 as part of the Tree Vitalize Program. It has been an inspiration for several rain gardens to be planted in the area, with the Audubon Society taking notice and providing technical and financial assistance.

The gardens have provided numerous opportunities for all students to accumulate community service hours by volunteering. For some of them, it was their first experience planting flowers. Since the beginning, this has been a real community building endeavor, with diverse participation, young and old, novices to master gardeners.

The WPC continues to provide flowers and mulch for our PA 65 Garden to be planted by BHCF volunteers. BHCF supports the 3 gardens at Termon and California (TC3). Over the years since 2012, we have modified the original installations, adding perennials, bulbs, shrubs, and ornamental grasses to expand the gardens beyond the original annual beds.

This year, the PA 65 Garden will be planted on Saturday, May 3 starting at 9 a.m. We'll have ageratum, rudbeckia, and zinnia to plant. The T&C gardens will be prepped and planted during Saturdays AND weekdays during the remainder of May. We will be working on most days that weather allows. We are trying this flexible schedule this year to avoid conflicts with other Saturday BH garden events like the plant sale pickup and the plant exchange and allow folks to volunteer on their own schedule. We ordered marigolds, petunias, salvias and rudbeckia from our plant sale for the T&C3. If you can help, call me at [412-779-9222](tel:412-779-9222). The goal is to have the gardens ready before Memorial Day, May 26.

Stay safe, stay green.

PHOTO BY JANI-PETTERI TAMMI ON UNSPLASH



6th Annual Plant Swap or Adopt

BRING OUT YOUR PLANTS !

This year's Plant Swap or Adopt is Saturday, May 10 at Legion Memorial Park. As always, we'll swap anything botanical or botanical adjacent – indoor plants, outdoor plants, seeds and vegetable starters. If it's a plant or somehow gardening-related and you'd like to share it – bring it to the park. You might just find something new to bring home with you.

It is always amazing to see the variety of things that folks bring to the park. But it's not just the unusual that causes excitement. I have a section of my backyard that is overrun with mint. Every year I dig a bunch of it up in hopes of containing it's spread and every year I think, "Nobody is going to want mint; it's a weed in my garden!" And every year a bunch of people are so excited to get some mint. I say this to remind you that if you have something in your garden that you don't like, bring it to the swap. You might just make someone else very happy. Sharing makes everyone happy.



If you are new to gardening, or even new to having a house plant on your window sill, you are welcome to come and adopt some plants. The event is free and open to everyone. Not only are there plants, seeds and pots for you, but there

are experienced gardeners who would love to answer your questions about how to get started. Look for the folks in the orange vests or just ask the person next to you. They might have been the one that brought the plant you are curious about.

Rain or shine, we'll be there swapping and talking plants. May in Pittsburgh is a roller-coaster of weather; it will either be hot and dry or cold and rainy, but none of that stops the Plant Swap or Adopt. So, slip on your gum boots, and get ready to garden. See you on the May 10.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the mailing list, contact us by emailing: PlantSwaporAdopt@gmail.com or join our Facebook group: Plant Swap or Adopt.

REMINDER: Those who ordered flowers through the BHCf Plant Sale can pick them up on Saturday May 3 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Legion Park.

Land Use Committee

The Land Use Committee has been working for the last few years to ensure that Brighton Heights is in a good position when it comes to housing, economic development, and relations with City planning. First, we have entered into a contract to sell our house on California Avenue to a buyer who plans to fix it up and move in to be a BH neighbor. Second, we are looking to renovate the Fleming Avenue house and put it on the market this summer. Third, we have welcomed an economic development coordinator to our Committee to help us help the neighborhood even more. Fourth, we have been writing capital budget requests

that we will recommend to the board. These requests will deal with improvements to the California Ave Bridge, the Jack Stack playground, Legion Park, the Healthy Active Living Center and other areas of the neighborhood. While we will not get everything we ask for, putting together a good proposal will always help. Finally, we have been following the zoning amendment news in City council and are here as a resource. Please reach out to the chair, Nick Petrillo at n.petrillo@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Spring Clean Up Day Results

We had beautiful weather again this year and another amazing turnout for our annual Earth Day Spring clean-up!

Thank you to Eric Newman and Cub Scout Troop 348 for your crew! Thank you to Dirt Doctors for sponsoring the event! Thank you to Michele Hubert and All Saints Church for hosting! Thank you to Joe Glassbrenner for bringing the donuts! And thank you to the many neighborhood volunteers for making this a big success!

We collected around 35 bags of trash, 4 tires and a number of electronic items. The most unusual find was a partial toilet found near Marmaduke Park by the Cub Scouts.

We had a fun gathering at the after-party with the team from Marshall-Shadeland at BJs Event Center with delicious food catered by Z-Best BBQ. It was Z-bomb!

We will be doing this again on September 20 for the Garbage Olympics. Hope to see you there.



Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Many people of different religious affiliations and ages gathered on a warm, sunny Good Friday on April 18, 2025, for a community Stations of the Cross walk hosted by Christ Our Savior Parish. The fourteen stations of the cross depict the pivotal events of Jesus's passion, from Pilot condemning Jesus to death to his burial in the tomb. Led by Pittsburgh Police, the stations walk on Pittsburgh's Northside started at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, stopping at seven churches, Arch Street Community Gardens, Light of Life Mission and designated spots in Allegheny Commons Park, concluding at St. Peter Church (Christ Our Savior Parish). Many families, young children and teens participated by taking turns carrying the cross from station to station. The prayers were very personal this year, as Reverend Steven Werth wrote stations pertinent to our current times. We prayed for neighbors condemned by judgmental churches and people, peace in our community, victims of violence, bigotry, and our neighbors holding onto anger and those grieving. We prayed for our neighbors overwhelmed with anxieties, fears, and those dealing with addiction and broken families. We prayed that our community grows in love, justice and peace.

Local Northside and Brighton Heights faith and civic leaders led one of the stations, including Rev. John Cawkins (Holy Trinity Lutheran), Rev. Nicita Moses, (Destiny of Faith), Donald Zeilman (Allegheny Unitarian Universalist), Joseph Glassbrenner (Brighton Heights Citizens Federation/Regina Coeli), Rev. Steven Werth and Emily Ruppel (Riverview United Presbyterian), Pastor Chris Thorpe, (Northside Institutional), Deacon Willie Jones, (Metropolitan Baptist), Deacon Michael Fekete, Annamaria Milsop, Dr. Ed Scheid, Rose Scheid (Christ Our Savior). The youngest prayer leaders were three eight-year-old students preparing for their first holy communion:

Leo Laneve assisted by Callie Hummel and Liliauna Martinac (Christ Our Savior). It was moving to witness so many young people, who showed up in substantial numbers, and as the walk progressed through the neighborhood, more people joined. Approximately 120 people of all ages and denominations united in prayer and song for this solemn commemoration of the passion of Jesus. I cannot think of a better way to honor Jesus than showing unity in our community, nor a better place to be on Good Friday! It was a holy, memorable, beautiful day in the neighborhood! Thanks to all attendees and the Pittsburgh Police for keeping us safe. Hope to see you next year!



From Brighton Heights Healthy Active Living Center (HALC)

ADDRESS: 3515 McClure Avenue
PHONE: 412-766-4656

DAILY FITNESS CLASSES

Our fitness center is open M-F from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

MONDAY & THURSDAY

Walk & Talk

WEDNESDAY

Tai Chi

MONDAY & FRIDAY

Vitality Life Exercise

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

BINGO

DATE: Every Friday

TIME: 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

FREEge Update

We have had a busy and exciting last few months at the BHCF FREEge. We had a meeting in January and almost doubled our volunteer base. Along with me, the following BH residents have been volunteering with us: Stacy Berkebile, Janet Debranski, Joe Glassbrenner, Carlene Halmo, Nick Leo, Todd McCollum, Skye Murphy, Christina Nesbitt, Nick Nesbitt, Gwen Nolte, Jen Shumar, Jena Simpson, and Ryan Yesenchak. We have been doing our best to keep a social media presence and to keep the FREEge stocked and surroundings clean.

We have been able to fill the FREEge at least once or twice a week with donations from the Light of Light's food pantry and 412 Food Rescue. These amazing groups provide weekly donations of fresh produce, canned food, lots of bagels, and frozen food. Thanks to Josh Nard who was able to obtain some lunches and milk from his son's school. Coyote Amrich, a resident who volunteers with 412 Food Rescue, has been immensely helpful in helping bag some of the bagel donations we get. And many thanks to the generous donations from citizens too numerous to name who have donated food. Please keep it up!

The month of April is a tough one for us as the Light of Life Food Pantry is closed while they move. What that means is: we are resorting to using the money that had previously been donated to help keep the FREEge stocked. We also could use donations from the community even more so during the next few weeks.

Thanks to generous donations from Bright the Night and Bobby Wilson's office (thanks to all who donated!), we have been able to purchase food when we find the FREEge empty. We also purchased IKEA bags for volunteers who help with the weekly food pick ups as transporting the food is sometimes challenging. We also have been doing our best to clear snow and ice from the ramp.

For those of you unfamiliar with the FREEge, it is a refrigerator and pantry located behind the New Life Fellowship Church. The address is 1301 Davis Avenue, but the best way to access it is to enter from their driveway off Shadeland Avenue. It is our wish to help in some way to address food insecurity and to prevent food waste in our community.

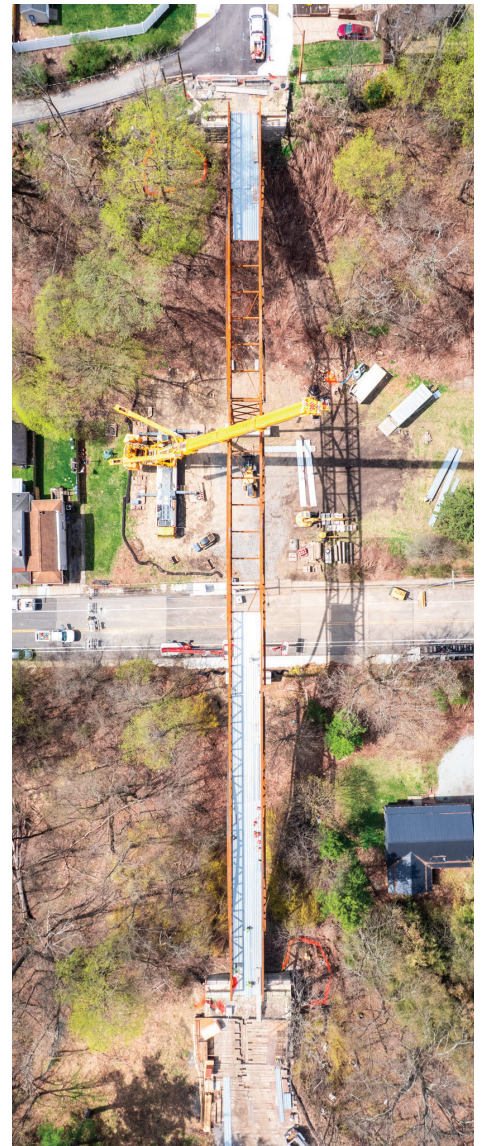
Please help keep the FREEge stocked – we can use as many donations from community members as possible. And please feel free to stop by and use the FREEge if you find yourself in need of food assistance. You do not need to sign up and use of the FREEge is confidential. If you want to volunteer with us, please let me know. And if you wish to let us know how the FREEge has helped you, we would love to share some anonymous testimonials with the community.

CONTACT: Lilian Akin

EMAIL: laakin@verizon.net



PHOTO BY ALESSIA BOSI ON UNSPLASH



Davis Avenue Bridge Update

Please enjoy these photos submitted by Bob Haller and Steve Donnelly of the Davis Ave. Bridge construction. Crews initially started construction last fall with the concrete piers. The project was delayed until construction picked back up with the setting of the steel trusses in March. The steel is set. The concrete travel surface is being completed and is set to be open by Memorial Day! Stay tuned for a public ribbon cutting date and time that will be posted on our Facebook page.



From Councilman Bobby Wilson

I'm happy to share numerous updates about improvements happening in Riverview Park. As many of you may have seen, final construction of the Davis Avenue Pedestrian bridge is underway, and we are getting close to a grand opening event. Stay tuned for more details which I will share on my Facebook and X account. I look forward to celebrating with all of you!

Riverview Park continues to receive crucial investment in landslide remediation with the \$1.5 million allocated in the current capital budget. Construction on landslides 1 and 3 is anticipated to begin this summer. I will continue to advocate for more funding to address the remaining landslides within the park and encourage you to follow the process on the Engage Page: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/riverview-park-landslide-remediation>. The Riverview Park playground is also getting a well-deserved upgrade. I was able to allocate \$750K in the 2024 Capital Budget towards design improvements for the playground. Details on the project and upcoming meeting dates can be found here: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/riverview-pg>.

I'm excited to share that Benton Avenue, between Brighton Road and California Avenue, is scheduled to receive traffic calming measures. These include a series of speed tables as well as pedestrian crossing improvements at McClure Avenue and Benton Avenue. I will continue to work with our partners in the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) to advocate for more projects like this in the neighborhood. Full details can be found on the Engage Page: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/neighborhood-traffic-calming/benton-avenue>.

At the end of January, the City launched the Pittsburgh 2050 Comprehensive Plan, which will guide future development for the City, provide the overall foundation for all land use regulation, and inform future decisions of City Council and other municipal leaders. The robust engagement process includes a survey that aims to collect feedback from residents of all 90 Pittsburgh neighborhoods. I encourage you to take the survey and share your ideas for the future of Pittsburgh here: <https://pgh2050.com/shareyourvoice#survey>.

I'd like to introduce you all to Morgan Martin, my office's new Legislative Aide, who started at the end of December 2024. Morgan recently graduated from New York University Stern School of Business and previously worked at the City's Ethics Hearing Board. Morgan brings a great deal of experience in marketing, communications, and research. We are thrilled to have her on board. If you have any needs regarding legislation, I encourage you to reach out to Morgan at morgan.martin@pittsburghpa.gov.

Lastly, my office has officially launched a newsletter! Sign up here <https://bit.ly/d1newslettersignup> to receive information about District 1 projects, legislation, community updates, and more.

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

Legislative Priorities in 2025

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program is open for older Pennsylvanians and individuals with disabilities. Applications for 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebates are due by June 30, 2025.

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 \$46,520 are eligible to apply. This represents an increase to the income cap of more than \$1,500 from last year. 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-\$8,270	\$1,000
\$8,271-\$15,510	\$770
\$15,511-\$18,610	\$460
\$18,611-\$46,520	\$380

Applicants are encouraged to apply online for the fastest review process. Online applications are available at https://mypath.pa.gov/_/.

As always, my staff is able to assist applicants with filing for their rebate. Call the Brookline office at **412-344-2551** or the Kennedy office at **412-331-1208** to schedule an appointment, or if you need assistance with any other state issue.

Stay connected during the year by signing up at www.senatorfontana.com to receive my weekly E-Newsletter where I provide updates on legislative activity and other important news in the district and from Harrisburg.

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 Kinkead

Many Americans are grappling with uncertainty and stress right now, and the folks in our district are no exception. With sharp cuts at the federal level, our neighbors are struggling to put food on the table for their

families, navigate bureaucratic red tape when trying to access resources, and access healthcare, affordable housing, and good paying jobs. In Harrisburg, my colleagues and I are working tirelessly to proactively address concerns that impact Pennsylvania, especially as we face unexpected job losses and funding at the federal level and pressure to ignore the rule of law. In short, we're all going through a lot.

My staff and I have struggled with you and will continue to do everything we can to alleviate the burdens so many of you are facing. We will not stop advocating on your behalf no matter what the circumstances. But focusing always on the current uncertainty of our socio-political and economic climate isn't healthy for any of us and so I want to spend some time talking about some opportunities for stress relief that are completely free. In times of heightened stress, it's important for us to remember our humanity, connect with nature, and prioritize self-care, so allow me to share one of the best benefits of being a Pennsylvania resident.

What am I referring to? Our fabulous State Parks! Did you know that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of State Parks manages 124 state parks with more than 300,000 acres for popular outdoor recreational activities, and none of the parks have entrance fees? Eighteen of those parks are within a 2-hour drive from our very own district! *(Scan the attached QR code to access an interactive map*

of those 18 parks!) Whether you pack up the whole family for a day of swimming at Moraine State Park, or you decide to take a solo hike in Pymatuning, or you are dreaming of a girl's weekend at Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania has you covered.

Getting out of the house, off social media, and away from the noise may be exactly what we all need right now. Taking deep breaths under tree covered trails or, as the weather improves, just floating down a river of your choice may help us connect with nature, get grounded, and spend quality time with people we care about the most, or people we want to get to know better! There are also great family-friendly programs for all ages and events that are fun and educational for you to consider! The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has a calendar of events that you can use to plan your entire spring, summer, and fall: <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/>

As we continue to navigate uncharted territory in a variety of ways, my staff and I will continue to provide practical state related needs like help with Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications, help with SNAP, Medicare, vital records, PRT Senior Connect Card applications, information on legislation, PennDOT assistance, and so much more. We hope you sign up to receive our weekly newsletter so you can stay informed by visiting <https://www.pahouse.com/kinkead/EmailSignUp/>. You can also contact my office directly with any state related needs. We are all in this together and my office and I are here to help – whether through direct services or just providing information about available opportunities, we're here to help.

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 Kinkead, State Representative, District 20
PHONE: 412-321-5523
EMAIL: RepKinkead@pahouse.net
ADDRESS: 658 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue
WEBSITE: <https://www.pahouse.com/kinkead>
TWITTER: @RepKinkead
FACEBOOK: Rep. Emily Kinkead
INSTAGRAM: @repkinkead

PHOTO COURTESY OF PA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



MINUTES (Review of Previous General Membership Meeting)

March 13, 2025

- Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. with 51 in attendance. The attendance was taken by sign in.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Motion to accept the minutes of the February GMM by Stacy Berkebile; second by Donna Kramer; Minutes approved.

Special Guests: Pittsburgh Police Lt. Watt

- 43 reports, 12 arrests.
- Zone 1 work is still not complete; the roof was fixed then leaked.

Public Safety Report

- Always hiring Lifeguards, EMS and police.
- Public Safety Ambassadors being hired.
- No update on the Medic 4 building.

Representative Kinkead's Office Rob Conroy

- April 26th shredding event 10 a.m. – 12 a.m. at Ross Public Works.
- Tax Rebate help offered.

Councilman Wilson Jordyn

- PWSA work resumes in April. The work is to be completed in Summer.
- Brighton Heights Rd to be repaired.
- Davis Ave Bridge will be worked on. Woods Run will be closed from March 24 – April 4 while work is completed.
- Healthy Active Living Center work waiting.
- Food Justice funds grants are available.
- Newsletter from the office available in April. Gene Walker from the School Board.
- School Board is working on clearing taxes to add properties to the URA.

- Public comments will be open for 3 months.
- Community meetings are coming at King, Perry and virtually.

Guests: Allegheny Land Trust Tom Moholland

- He spoke on the progress of the old St. Johns site. There will be tree thinning and other activity soon.
- Question about if the site will be a non-deer garden. Information at alleghenylandtrust.org tab of St. John site.
- Development Activity Meeting at 1623 Rankin Ave.
- Recardo Everett – resident
- Transform single family to multi-family 2-unit house.
- Objections can be heard at Zoning Board Meeting.

Report of Officers and Others:

President's Report Joseph Glassbrenner

- Feb. attended the One North Side celebration. We had hoped to gain funding for the California Ave mural project. We earned \$2,740. That will be matched by Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.
- Davis Ave. Bridge will be worked on March 24. We will be more involved with completion and ribbon cutting.
- Reminder for HS seniors NSLC awards for secondary education.
- Questions and comments on art project.
- 3 Rivers Youth Home: all funding is approved. Questions on tours. Minimal historical value, thus, no tours will happen.
- Raising the building in the summer.

Vice President's Report Brendan Delaney

- No report.

Corresponding Secretary

- In February there were 9 new residents. Welcome bags go out next week.

Treasurer's Report

- Total cash on hand: \$13,880.99. Operating: \$12,889.09, Land Use: \$512.45
- Motion to make payment of the credit card by Bob Haller; second by Donna Kramer; motion passes.
- The city invoice for \$120 for Bright the Night barricade set-up is paid.
- Newsletter payment \$53 will be on automatic payment going forward.
- Bulk rate payment will be coming.
- Tax increases for properties: Total due \$102 for California Ave. \$167 for Fleming Ave.
- Tax returns filed.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Donna Kramer; second by Parker Goolsby; motion passes.

Report of Committees:

NSLC

- Scholarships as previously mentioned.

Gardens and Greenspaces

- Work and planting on Route 65 will start May 3, 9 a.m. – Noon
- Plant sale May 3rd. Order form is online, deadline is April 11.

Memorial Day

- Volunteers needed for cemetery flag planting May 23, 9 a.m. – Noon.
- May 26 at Legion Park; bring a chair.
- Meeting first Monday of the month until Memorial Day.

Summer Series

- First Saturday of the month May- October.
- Volunteers needed.

Clean-Up

- April 19, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Get together for lunch after.

Food Fridge

- Appreciation to the volunteers.
- Deliveries happen every week.
- Donations always welcome.

Land Use

- Property at 3829 California Ave., tried grants but didn't go through.
- It has been placed on the market; already being shown.
- Flemming Ave., we are working with Rising Tide and URA. No further update.
- Update on California Ave Bridge: DOMI has an engineering contractor.
- Bridge was inspected and a light pole was removed.
- Awaiting the current March report. Next inspection is in September.

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- Question on the five-point intersection.
- Michelle will be at our next board meeting to discuss her California Ave. property.

Anything for the Good of the Federation

- Stations of the Cross walk on Friday, April 18.
- Motion to Adjourn by Todd McCollum; second by Stacy Berkebile; motion approved.

Adjournment.

Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Todd McCollum



Last Page Laugh

by Tom Kaylor

Q: What ship docked in Pittsburgh always seems to sink?"

A: The Pirate's ship!

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.

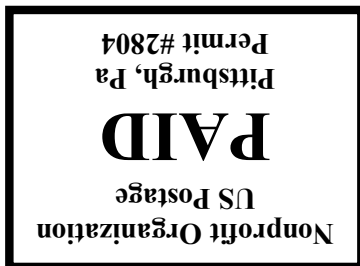
Membership is also available online at www.brightonheights.org

THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025.

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