



# BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 56  
ISSUE 1

## CITIZENS REPORT

January 2026

### Bright the Night Review

Bright the Night 2025 was a rousing success! The night had live entertainment, fire dancing, and to top it off, we ended with fireworks.

We really want to thank all of the volunteers who made this year possible! Thank you to all of the churches and businesses that donated their time and supplies; the children loved all the activities. Also thank you to all the businesses and museums that donated to the raffle basket auction.

The night was a great way to end a great year of fun here in Brighton Heights. Cheers to next year and hopefully a bigger and even greater event!



### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

John Morrow Auditorium

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## From the (NEW!) Federation President

by Nick Petrillo

Happy New Year Brighton Heights! We had such a great 2025, where we helped neighbors, made new friends, and gathered together so many wonderful times. The last of which is the best of them all: Bright the Night! It was incredible seeing all the wonderful vendors and performers, and how about those fireworks?! I want to thank Ryan for chairing this event and to Bob for the fireworks display.

I want to give a shout out to all of you in the community that helped out by donating food to the FREEdge over the last part of the year. There were so many people affected by the federal government shutdown and lapse of SNAP benefits and Brighton Heights really stepped up. It wasn't just BHCF either; California Coffee and Bellevue Beer hosted food pantries. Especially at this time of year, where the days get shorter and the nights seem just a bit darker, being a community that lifts up its least fortunate is something to be proud of.

At this upcoming January General Meeting on January 8, we will be hosting Pittsburgh Department of Public Works (DPW) Landscape Architect Andrea Ketzler, who will present on planned design updates for Marmaduke Park. DPW is looking for feedback, so please attend if you currently use or hope to use the park in the future. There is also an online survey link later in this newsletter.

City Council is considering changes to how organizations like us interact with the City government. I attended a video call with other community groups across Pittsburgh hosted by Councilmembers Barb Warwick and Theresa Kail-Smith last month. If the legislation goes through, the main change we will see is a request that BHCF write a position statement on all Development Activities Meetings. I will follow this legislation and keep you updated.

I want to welcome our new board members, Rich Shockency, Jen Shumar, Elizabeth Mominee, Steve Kuhn, and Susan Pesselato. This year we had more significant interest in joining the board than we've had in the last five years, and I view it as a testament to how the community has really embraced our events, from the Summer Series to the Halloween Parade, from the House Tour to Bright the Night. Join me in welcoming them to the board and if you would like to get involved, whether on the board, to chair an event, or just to volunteer some of your time, let me or someone else on the board know.

In the November General Meeting, I was elected as your President for the next two years. For the last two years I've been the Land Use Chair on the board working on zoning, economic development and helping to sell the houses BHCF purchased back in 2018. I hope you will bear with me as I learn, and I welcome any and all tips, tricks, or even complaints. You can always reach me at [npetrill@gmail.com](mailto:npetrill@gmail.com).

Finally, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to Joe Glassbrenner and Seth McClarey who are both moving on from our BHCF board. Seth joined the board the same year I did and has been active in the Land Use Committee and the House Tour. Joe has been our fearless leader for six years and we cannot thank him enough for what he did for this organization, leading us through the pandemic and finishing with the spectacular year of 2025.

Joe, I wish you the best in everything you do. We will miss your presence on the board, but glad to be able to still see you in the neighborhood.

**2026, here we come!**



## 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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### Officers

President: Nick Petrillo  
 Vice President: Brendan Delaney  
 Treasurer: Robert Haller  
 Corresponding Sec: Elaine Gloeckner  
 Recording Secretary: Todd McCollum

### Directors

Judy Bendtsen, Stacy Berkebile, Parker Goolsby, Janice Johns-Engelman (Emeritus), Regina Kolodziej, Donna Kramer, Steve Kuhn, Tim Maloney, Elizabeth Mominee, Susan Pesselato, Rich Shockency, Jen Shumar, 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

## Neighbor Spotlight

BY: ANNIE PERRI COLE  
(FOLLOW AT @HOUSESOFPITTSBURGH)

In the season of New Year's resolutions, let's do more than just aim to exercise, but to support the incredible small businesses in our neighborhood. You can do both with this next business that we're sharing in our Neighbor Spotlight series. John Bratton, Larry Crouser, and Lauren Bradford are residents of Brighton Heights and also the team behind California Cycle Path. Here's our conversation:

### What does California Cycle Path offer?

California Cycle Path is a community-focused fitness studio offering cycling, strength training, functional movement, boxing, rowing, yoga, Pilates, dance fitness and personalized coaching. We created this space to be more than just a workout. It's a supportive environment where people feel empowered, encouraged, and connected. Our goal is to help every member become stronger physically and mentally, no matter their starting point.

### How can the community support you?

The greatest support comes from simply showing up, joining a class, attending an event, referring a friend, or sharing your experience with neighbors. Small businesses thrive through community engagement, and we're grateful for everyone who walks through our doors and spreads the word.

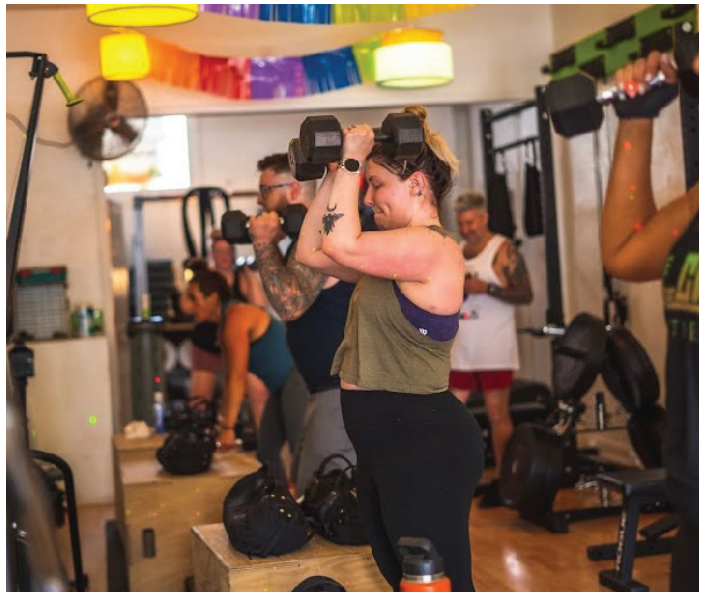
### Why did you choose to open in Brighton Heights?

Brighton Heights reflects everything we value: community, walk-ability, and neighbors who genuinely care for each other. It's a neighborhood with heart, and opening our studio here felt like the natural choice. We wanted to build something meaningful right in the place we love.

### What motivation can you share with our neighbors as we go into the new year and people make resolutions to work out?

Start small, stay consistent, and give yourself grace. You don't need perfection. Just a commitment to show up for yourself. Small steps create lasting habits, and movement is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself. We're here to support our neighbors every step of the way.

Sign up for a class at [californiacyclepath.com](https://californiacyclepath.com) and give them a follow on social media [@californiacyclepath](https://www.instagram.com/californiacyclepath). If you have any ideas for who to spotlight next, please email me at [annieperricole@gmail.com](mailto:annieperricole@gmail.com).



## St. John's Greenspace

We're excited to share that the rehabilitation of the St. John's Green site is complete, marking an important milestone for the Brighton Heights community. This space, once home to St. John's Hospital and later vacant for decades, has been transformed into a vibrant greenspace designed for neighbors to enjoy and for the environment to thrive.

The property has deep roots in the neighborhood's history. For a century, it served as a local hospital and hosted a nursing school for over 50 years. We've heard stories from many neighbors, volunteers, and other supporters, about their connections to this property, those who were born here, worked here, or who have been following its transformation over the years. Now, we're excited to see this site begin a new chapter as a community green space, and we look forward to future generations creating their own meaningful memories here.

The restored St. John's Green includes stormwater features to reduce flooding, a revitalized urban forest, ADA-accessible parking and trails, and spaces for community gatherings. These improvements blend environmental benefits with neighborhood priorities, creating a space that is both functional and welcoming.

This fall, volunteers helped plant dozens of native trees and shrubs, laying the foundation for a thriving urban forest. As these young plants leaf out in the spring, St. John's Green will truly come alive, providing shade, wildlife habitat, and a beautiful space for neighbors to gather. Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas, time, and energy to make this possible, and a special thanks to the neighbors who rolled up their sleeves to dig through hard-packed soil during our October planting day.

Now that the site is open, we invite you to enjoy the trails, explore the new greenspace, and share your feedback. If you notice any issues, please reach out to me directly at [tom@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:tom@alleghenylandtrust.org). We'll continue to share volunteer opportunities with Brighton Heights Citizens Federation and provide updates in this newsletter. Looking ahead, we plan to host an official opening celebration in the spring as the new plantings begin to bloom. We can't wait to see St. John's Green become a true gathering hub for the community.

## Marmaduke Playground Improvements

Andrea Ketzler, Senior Landscape Architect for the Department of Public Works will be providing an update to community members about improvements to Marmaduke Playground. Andrea brings nearly 20 years of experience to her role and oversees a portfolio of 50+ park renovation projects throughout the City of Pittsburgh. She is dedicated to making equitable and inclusive improvements to Pittsburgh's public spaces.

The proposed improvements at Marmaduke include a new playground and safety surface, upgrading the hardscape and walkways and an updated spray feature. The City has been utilizing our online engagement platform, Engage PGH, to gather feedback on the playground design. More information, including project timeline, can be found at this link: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/marmaduke-playground>

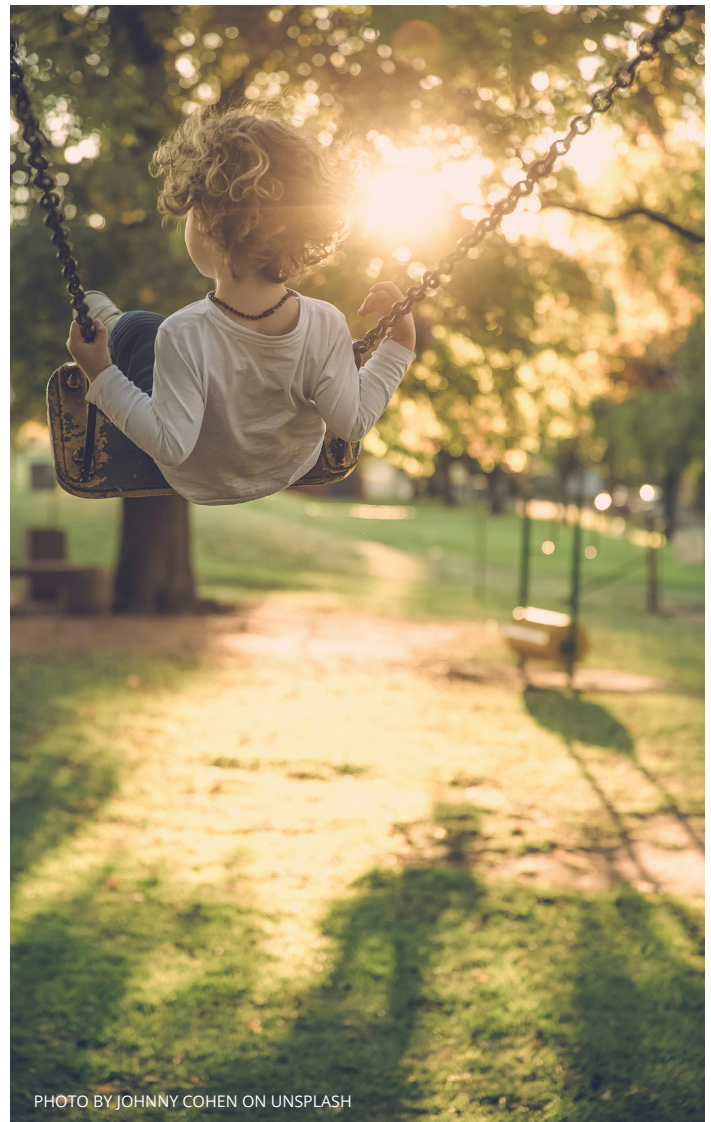


PHOTO BY JOHNNY COHEN ON UNSPLASH

# Community Garden Update at St. John's Site

The BH Community Garden Committee has been hard at work imagining a vibrant new space where neighbors can grow food, gather, and learn together. At our November meeting, hosted at Sue Maloney's home, we discussed priorities, phased planning, and sought ways to bring this vision to life at the St. John's Site.



As we continue to explore the best way to use the St. John's space, our plans will evolve. Presently, we have identified the following key priorities:

- **Growing spaces:** Raised beds for vegetables, berries, and possibly fruit trees, with options for individual or shared plots.
- **Pollinator support:** Flowers to attract bees and butterflies.
- **Community features:** Social areas for gatherings, educational programming, and support for the neighborhood FREEdge.

We agreed to design the full garden space with flexibility for gradual implementation. Each step, whether building fencing,

a shed, or raised beds, will support the overall design. Cost estimates for DIY construction are underway, and once the design is finalized, images will be used for fundraising efforts.

Several promising resources have been identified, including PWSA's program to provide free water line installation for community gardens and support from carpentry volunteers

through Build Your Skills in the Trades. We continue to explore funding opportunities with local grantors but are considering ways to get the whole neighborhood involved too. Stay tuned for more information about fundraising campaigns, small business sponsorships, volunteer opportunities and other ways you can get support the garden.

We will be holding recurring meetings on the first Monday of each month at All Saints Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. All are welcome, to join the effort or just hear more about the plans.

This initiative is more than just a garden, it's a chance to strengthen community ties, promote sustainability, and create a welcoming space for all. For further information, reach out to Carin Mincemoyer at [carin.mincemoyer@gmail.com](mailto:carin.mincemoyer@gmail.com).



## Halloween Parade Review

This year, the Halloween Parade was hosted with a twist – featuring a trunk or treat AND a neighborhood celebration. It was a big day of spooktacular fun — we had 90+ kids join us for the parade and shared 150 candy bags!

It was so wonderful to see so many kids and families enjoying the day in the neighborhood. Special thanks to all the folks who volunteered, the BHCF board, and the incredible Trunk and Table Hosts: Brooke (Yellow Bridges Speech and Sensory Development Center, LLC), Tony (North Hills Handyman), Emily Kinkead, Stacey Slie (Thick Scoops), and neighbors Lindsey and Dana (who came all the way from Maryland to celebrate!)

This year's activity partners included: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Woods Run, Emmanuel Christian Church, Brighton Heights Community VBS, and Petal Orange Floral.

Thank you to our donors: Positively Pittsburgh/Tom Pollard, Office of Councilman Bobby Wilson - Pittsburgh District 1, Office of Councilwoman Theresa Kail-Smith - Pittsburgh District 2, Donna Kramer, The Humble Barber Co., Museum of Illusions Pittsburgh, First Ascent Station Square, and Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

We look forward to next year!





## From Mayor O'Connor

Hello Neighbors in Brighton Heights! I am honored to be your next mayor and can't wait to get to work in January.

It's been a busy couple of weeks, but I've been building a team that can hit the ground running on January 5 to help me

fulfill my promise to Pittsburgh: that we build a City that works for every resident.

Pittsburgh should be everybody's first choice whether you're looking for a job, starting a family, deciding where to buy a house, or choosing where to locate your business. Brighton Heights is an example of what makes this City great. You know your neighbors, you have greenspace and parks, you have history and architecture, and you can easily get to wherever you need to be. I want to build on the strengths like those that make Pittsburgh home.

I want to create opportunities for our kids, prioritize safety in our neighborhoods, facilitate responsible development, create jobs and opportunities, support new and existing

small businesses, attract more companies and businesses here, make sure everyone gets efficient City services, and develop more housing for everyone.

It's not always going to be easy. We're facing financial challenges that may mean we have to tighten our belts in some areas, but I promise you transparency, efficiency, and responsiveness.

We want to make sure that we're listening to you and our neighbors across the City. We want to hear what you have to say so we can roll up our sleeves and get to work for you. As we approach January, I hope that you'll fill out our community listening survey at [mayorcoreyoconnor.com](http://mayorcoreyoconnor.com).

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and working together to build Pittsburgh's future!

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## Li'l Bridgey 5K Run/Walk

Preparations for the Brighton Heights "Li'l Bridgey" 5K Run/Walk are underway. The event will take place 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 16. Registration and community activities will take place at Legion Park, while the race itself will run through Riverview Park, starting and ending on the Davis Avenue Bridge.

Registration will start on February 1, with "early bird" pricing starting at \$20. The first 150 that register will receive a t-shirt and all participants will go home with a painted rock (very similar to the rocks featured on the "Brighton Heights Rocks" Facebook group).

We are also looking for businesses that would be interested in sponsoring the 5K. Folks should contact Ben Cole at [benmcole@gmail.com](mailto:benmcole@gmail.com) or 412-901-5464.



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENKE ON UNSPLASH

# 2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Jan. 1 ..... New Year's Day  
 Jan. 1 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Jan. 8 ..... General Membership Meeting  
 Jan. 19 ..... Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Feb. 2 ..... Groundhog Day  
 Feb. 5 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Feb. 14 ..... Valentine's Day  
 Feb. 16 ..... President's Day  
 Feb. 17 ..... Lunar New Year  
 Feb. 18 ..... Ash Wednesday  
 Feb. 18 ..... Ramadan Begins

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Mar. 3 ..... Purim  
 Mar. 5 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Mar. 8 ..... Daylight Savings  
 Mar. 12 ..... General Membership Meeting  
 Mar. 17 ..... St. Patrick's Day  
 Mar. 20 ..... First Day of Spring  
 Mar. 29 ..... Palm Sunday

APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Apr. 2 ..... Maundy Thursday  
 Apr. 2 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Apr. 2 ..... Passover Begins  
 Apr. 3 ..... Good Friday  
 Apr. 5 ..... Easter  
 Apr. 10 ..... Orthodox Good Friday  
 Apr. 11 ..... Orthodox Holy Saturday  
 Apr. 12 ..... Orthodox Easter  
 Apr. 15 ..... Tax Day  
 Apr. 18 ..... Spring Clean-up  
 Apr. 22 ..... Earth Day

MAY						
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May 7 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 May 9 ..... Spring Flower Prep Day  
 May 10 ..... Mother's Day  
 May 14 ..... General Membership Meeting  
 May 16 ..... Spring Flower Planting Day  
 May 22 ..... Flag Planting Highwood Cem.  
 May 25 ..... Memorial Day

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Jun. 4 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Jun. 6 ..... D-Day Remembrance Day  
 Jun. 19 ..... Juneteenth  
 Jun. 21 ..... Father's Day  
 Jun. 21 ..... First Day of Summer

JULY						
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Jul. 4 ..... Independence Day  
 \*NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING\*

AUGUST						
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Aug. 6 ..... Board of Directors Meeting

SEPTEMBER						
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Sep. 3 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Sep. 7 ..... Labor Day  
 Sep. 10 ..... General Membership Meeting  
 Sep. 12 ..... Rosh Hashanah  
 Sep. 19 ..... Fall Clean-up/Garbage Olympics  
 Sep. 21 ..... Yom Kippur  
 Sep. 22 ..... First Day of Autumn

OCTOBER						
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Oct. 1 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Oct. 12 ..... Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day  
 Oct. 17 ..... Flower Pull-up Day  
 Oct. 31 ..... BHCf Halloween Parade  
 Oct. 31 ..... Halloween

NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Nov. 1 ..... Daylight Savings Time Ends  
 Nov. 3 ..... Election Day  
 Nov. 5 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Nov. 11 ..... Veterans Day  
 Nov. 12 ..... Gen. Membership Meeting/Election  
 Nov. 26 ..... Thanksgiving

DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Dec. 3 ..... Board of Directors Meeting  
 Dec. 5 ..... Bright the Night  
 Dec. 5 ..... Hanukkah Begins  
 Dec. 21 ..... First Day of Winter  
 Dec. 25 ..... Christmas  
 Dec. 26 ..... Kwanzaa Begins  
 Dec. 31 ..... New Year's Eve

If you have any events that you would like to include on the 2027 calendar, please send them to us by the end of this year.

All BHCf events noted here are subject to cancellation or change.



## From Councilman Bobby Wilson

Happy New Year Brighton Heights! I hope you and your family had a healthy and happy holiday season. As we begin the new year, I'd like to share a few updates on projects in the Brighton Heights community. Last year, I

toured the Jack Stack complex with the Director of Public Works and the Assistant Director of Facilities, and we reviewed the leaking roof at the pool building, the baseball fields, and the equipment at the playground. Based on that walkthrough, we all agreed that the playground desperately needed upgraded and I was able to allocate \$300,000 for those upgrades. This area is long overdue for a safer, new space for the community, and I look forward to sharing more details in the future.

We also agreed that the pool building's roof needs major repairs and at the writing of this article, I'm planning to allocate \$250,000 in the 2026 Capital Budget for this project. Maintaining our City facilities is a top priority of mine and I'll continue to advocate for these types of improvements in the future.

I'm also happy to share that last December, construction began on the much-needed playground upgrades at Riverview Park. It's great to see this project begin after allocating \$750,000 in the 2024 Capital Budget and the feedback from the community. Details on the project can be found on the Engage Page: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/riverview-pg>.

The start of a new year is the perfect time to sign up as a volunteer with the City's Snow Angel Program. The program pairs nearby neighbors with older residents or residents with disabilities to assist them with snow removal on their sidewalks and walkways. Along with fostering stronger community relationships and relieving some of the stress that comes from a snowfall or freeze, Snow Angels make the City's sidewalks safer for those who are outside during the winter weather, like postal carriers, firefighters, police officers, and other neighbors.

To request a Snow Angel, you must be at least 62 years old, or have a physical disability, live within the City of Pittsburgh, and do not have resources (financial or family and friends nearby) to assist with snow removal. Full details on how to become a Snow Angel or to request one, can be found

online <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/snow-angels> or by calling 311. Residents can contact the Snow Angels Program directly at [snowangels@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:snowangels@pittsburghpa.gov).

If you have any questions or concerns, call us at (412) 255-2135, email us at [district1@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:district1@pittsburghpa.gov), find us on Facebook and X, and My staff and I look forward to

For more information, you can sign up for our newsletter: <https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/City-Government/City-Council/Districts/Bobby-Wilson-District-1>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at a method below. My staff and I look forward to hearing from you and working together to make 2026 a great year for Brighton Heights!

**CONTACT:** Bobby Wilson, Councilman, District 1  
**PHONE:** 412-255-2135  
**EMAIL:** [district1@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:district1@pittsburghpa.gov)  
**X (FORMERLY TWITTER):** @Dist1Pgh  
**FACEBOOK:** Office of Councilman Bobby Wilson  
**INSTAGRAM:** @councilmanbobbywilson



## A Legislative Win for Pittsburgh's Neighborhoods

Pittsburgh's future is at a crossroads, with significant projects and transformations on the horizon. However, more tools are needed to stimulate development and redevelopment in City neighborhoods. This includes Downtown, which is experiencing an uptick in office vacancies caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. If this trajectory continues, Pittsburgh stands to lose millions of dollars in property tax revenues, something our City's neighborhoods cannot afford.

In order to stabilize the market and attract new businesses, developers need to upgrade or redevelop vacant office buildings and other dilapidated structures. However, conversions are expensive. One way to lessen the blow and encourage new development is by extending the term of tax incentives. For two legislative sessions, I have introduced Senate Bill 264 to expand the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) program cap from 10 years to 20 years. The law was originally passed by the General Assembly in 1977 to incentivize redevelopment of aging or deteriorating properties by abating property taxes on the assessed value of improvements made to the existing building or land. However, the 10-year limit has not been updated in those 47 years.

I am pleased to announce that my efforts to prioritize this legislation have paid off. My Senate Bill 264 language was included in one of the final budget bills that was signed into law in November.

The passage of Act 45 will encourage individuals and developers to invest in all our city neighborhoods in 2026,

creating additional tax revenues that will drive economic growth and family-sustaining jobs. By aligning our incentives with neighboring states and enhancing LERTA, we level the playing field and signal our commitment to new businesses and expand existing ones.

As we begin the New Year, I remain committed to fighting for the communities I represent in Harrisburg by proposing and supporting policies that will help my constituents. I encourage you to stay connected by signing up at [www.senatorfontana.com](http://www.senatorfontana.com) to receive my weekly e-newsletter.

**CONTACT:** Senator Wayne D. Fontana,  
42nd Senatorial District  
**PHONE:** 412-344-2551  
**EMAIL:** [fontana@pasenate.com](mailto:fontana@pasenate.com)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.senatorfontana.com](http://www.senatorfontana.com)  
**TWITTER:** @WayneDFontana



PHOTO BY JIMMY WOO ON UNSPLASH



## From State Rep. Emily Kinhead

### Working for You in Our State Budget and Our Communities

Despite more than four months of delay, Pennsylvania has a state budget in place for the 2025–26 fiscal year. While it should never take this long

to deliver for the people of Pennsylvania, the final product reflects meaningful bipartisan work and important progress for communities across the Commonwealth. This year’s budget makes significant strides toward fairer education funding, stronger anti-hunger programs, and real economic support for working people.

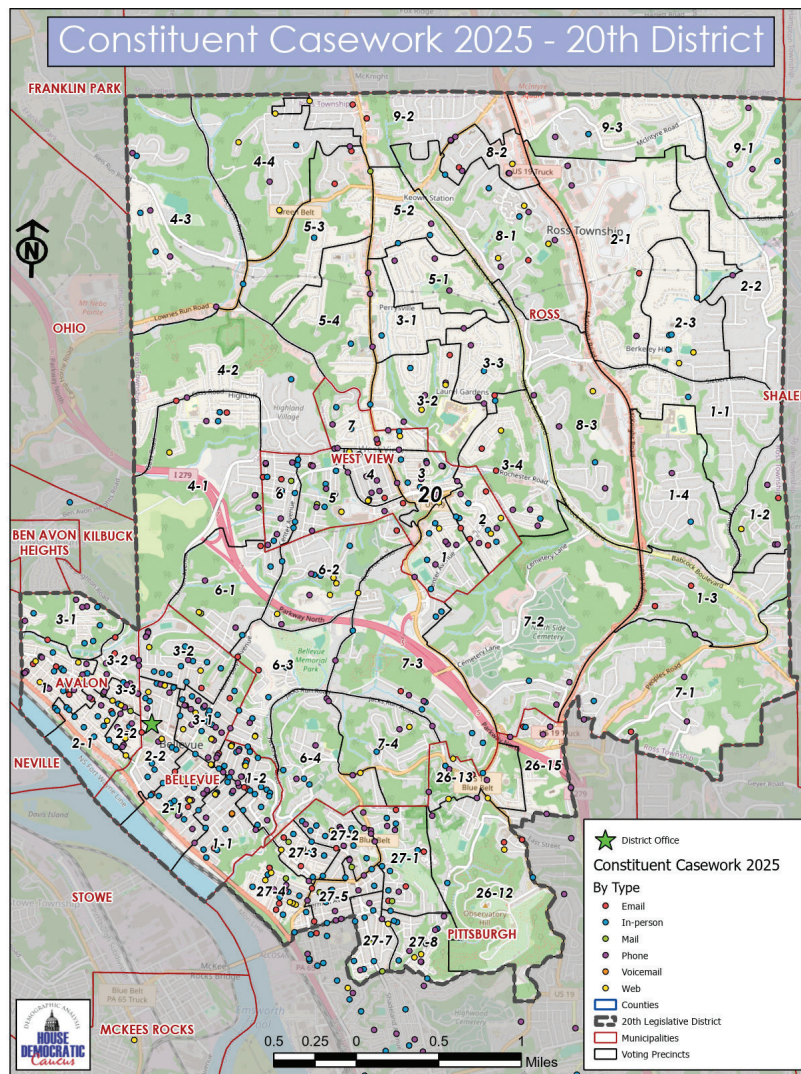
Perhaps the most impactful achievement in this year’s budget is the creation of the Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (WPTC), a new state-level tax credit that nearly 1 million Pennsylvanians will receive, including almost 75,000 people right here in Allegheny County. Anyone who qualifies for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) will now automatically qualify for a state credit equal to 10% of their federal credit, sending hundreds or even thousands of dollars to households feeling the greatest strain amid rising living costs. The federal EITC is considered one of the most effective anti-poverty tools in the United States, and creating a state-level version means we can further help uplift those who need it most.

One of the most transformative aspects of this budget is the long-overdue reform of our cyber charter school funding model. By recognizing that the costs of providing education online are significantly lower than those associated with traditional brick-and-mortar schools -- and by closing glaring loopholes -- schools across the Commonwealth will save \$178 million. Those dollars will go directly back into classrooms and student resources. An additional provision in this budget also addresses the teacher shortage by reducing the fees and barriers associated with teacher certification.

Working to ensure compliance with the 2023 Commonwealth Court order that found our current system of funding public schools to be unconstitutional, we continued our work to reform school funding formula by including another \$565 million in adequacy funding for school districts that have been left behind for far too long. Combined with a nearly \$150 million increase in basic and

special education funding for schools across the state, this budget brings us closer to achieving a Pennsylvania where a child’s educational opportunities are not determined by their ZIP code.

Beyond education, we made historic investments to combat food insecurity, with more than \$40 million dedicated to state-level anti-hunger programs. These funds will bolster food banks, strengthen the State Food Purchase Program, expand existing resources like farmers market coupons to help maximize the impact of SNAP dollars, and work to ensure a future where no Pennsylvanian goes hungry. At a time when uncertainty



at the federal level is threatening critical programs like SNAP, our Commonwealth is stepping up to support more Pennsylvanians in need.

The months-long delay -- driven by Senate Republican leaders stepping away from the negotiating table -- and compounded by the longest federal shutdown in history, created uncertainty, stress and anxiety that will have lasting effects on schools, nonprofits, and local governments. And while we still have significant work to do to properly fund public transit, responsibly address climate change, and ensure that development and economic growth in Pennsylvania are enjoyed by every resident -- not just a wealthy few -- I am incredibly proud of what we were able to accomplish in this budget.

And when speaking of accomplishments in working for you, I also want to share specific numbers that further illustrate how my office has served the needs of District 20. We solved 1,988 pieces of casework, 154 PennDOT cases, and responded to 2,744 constituent emails. Included in the casework were 773 Property Tax Rent Rebates that brought back \$265,857 to residents of HD20!

There is certainly more work to do to ensure that our government is doing the most good for the most people, but I think as we look to what is ahead for us in 2026, it is also important to reflect on what we have accomplished so far. Know that I am committed to continuing to fight for budgets, laws, and state investments in our communities that ensure every Pennsylvanian can thrive. If you want to learn more about the state budget, legislation I'm working on in Harrisburg, or how my team and I can help you, please reach out to my office by email or call us.

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

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**TWITTER:** @RepKinkead

**FACEBOOK:** Rep. Emily Kinkead

**INSTAGRAM:** @repkinkead



## 2025-26 PA BUDGET WINS

- ✓ Creating the **Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit** - Recipients of the federal EITC automatically qualify for new state-level credit equivalent to 10% of their federal credit.
- ✓ **Nearly 75,000** people in Allegheny County are expected to qualify.

**REPRESENTATIVE  
EMILY KINKEAD**

Visit [houseappropriations.com](https://houseappropriations.com) for more budget details.



# MINUTES (Review of Previous General Membership Meeting)

## November 13, 2025

- Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. with 52 in attendance. The attendance was taken by sign-in.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Motion to accept the minutes of the September GMM by John Belch; second by Stacy Berkebile; motion approved.

### Special Guests:

#### Pittsburgh Police

- For the past 2 months: 25 reports, 6 arrests.
- Breakdown of Part I crimes: 2 burglaries, 13 thefts; no trends.
- Answered questions.
- Police will be delivering Thanksgiving meals.
- Toy donation drive.

#### Councilman Wilson

##### Jorden

- Budget hearings have started; contact Clerk's office for input
- In September, bill for vape shops was introduced.
- Per DOMI, PWSA construction hit gas line and there was improper work by the contractors.
- Per DPW, Jack Stack Pool will have work on pool, roof repairs, women's restroom and dugout repairs.
- Marmaduke Park: support for nature theme. More input is needed.

#### Representative Kinkead

##### Daniel

- SNAP benefits delayed; struggling families can call the office for closest Food Bank list.

#### Department of City Planning

##### Mackenzie Pleskovic, Senior Planner

- City Greenways Initiative: vacant lots for greenway expansion. Handout to go with presentation.
- Chris Sweeney, One Northside Education Committee Chair: Pittsburgh Public Schools Utilization Plan; spoke on effect of plan to North Side Schools. Handout with presentation.

### Report of Officers and Others:

#### President's Report

##### Joseph Glassbrenner

- HALC work has started.
- Wilksboro foot bridge; demolition scheduled for December.
- Garden Committee Meeting: Termon Ave Gardens project delayed but County deeds are cleared. Project has new leaders; spring for demolition.
- New Life: Hallelujah soup and clothing on Dec 20; see handout.
- In talking with Councilman Wilson, PWSA update: engineering department evaluating project.
- As result of gas line break is the City placing penalties for improper work?

#### Vice President's Report

##### Brendan Delaney

- No report.

#### Corresponding Secretary

- Ten welcome bags delivered.

#### Treasurer's Report

- Cash on hand: \$33,580.
- House Tour: \$12,836; 400 tickets sold.
- Fall plant sale: \$4,500.
- Summer Series: \$5,000.
- \$2,200 Net.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Joe Glassbrenner; second by Donna Kramer; motion passes.

### Report of Committees:

#### NSLC

- No report.

#### Bright the Night

- Dec 6, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- Scheduled Santa, food trucks, 22 raffle baskets, music and fireworks.

#### Nominating Committee

- Motion to approve the slate of officers by Todd McCollum; second by Stacy Berkebile. Motion passes with one abstention.

#### Vegetable Garden

- Regular monthly meeting on the first Monday of the month.

#### Halloween Parade

- Successful event, very well attended.

#### Land Use

- Flemming Ave house deal fell through.
- School closing likely.
- Rite Aid: possibility of becoming First National Bank or Giant Eagle Pharmacy.
- Committee will transition to economic development.

#### Riverview Park 5K

- Saturday, May 16 at 9 a.m.
- Permits in progress.

#### Communications

- No report.

#### Food FREEdge

- New fridge coming.
- Reliance on community donations to stock currently.

### Old Business:

- Time limits on speakers moving forward.

### New Business:

- No New Business.

### Anything for the Good of the Federation

- 50/50 for \$31 won by G. Rouse
- Motion to Adjourn by Stacy Berkebile; second by Donna Kramer; meeting adjourned.

### Adjournment.

*Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Todd McCollum*



### Last Page Laugh

by Tom Kaylor

*As he ran out the door with his bowling ball, Harry yelled back to his wife . . . "I'm late, and don't have a moment to spare".*

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S)	DATE
ADDRESS	CITY, STATE
ZIP CODE + 4	PHONE
	EMAIL

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Membership for _____ years  MULTIPLE YEAR BONUS: Pay 3 years >>> get 4 years! Pay 5 years >>> get 7 years!	<input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$10) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$7.50) <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Social (\$5) <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$20)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation (optional) _____ for: _____ _____
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**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, JANUARY 8, 2026.**  
 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



Brighton Heights Citizens Federation  
 PO Box 99602  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15233