



# BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

VOLUME 56  
ISSUE 3

## CITIZENS REPORT

May 2026



### St. John's Green Grand Opening Celebration

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 28, 2026

**WHERE:** St John's Site;  
3400 Fleming Avenue

**TIME:** 5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) and Brighton Heights Citizens Federation would like to invite neighbors to join us at St. John's Green for a Grand Opening Celebration.

Formerly the site of the St. John's Hospital, this land has now been transformed into a neighborhood greenspace and natural stormwater management site! ALT, BHCF, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, past project leads, and community members came together to transform this land for the benefit of the neighborhood. Now, we are excited to invite the community to join us all in celebrating the site's transformation.

We will host a ribbon cutting ceremony at the start of the event. Attendees are welcome to join the event anytime between 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

At the celebration, attendees can walk along the site's newly installed trail to tour the new amenities, including stormwater infrastructure, stairs, benches, a bike fixing station, a community vegetable garden, and more. Attendees can also learn more about the site's history, the neighborhood's involvement, the new vegetable garden, the site's habitat transformation, and more along their walk. Light food and refreshments will be available.

Join us at this celebration to honor the site's past, present, and future. Learn more at [www.alleghenylandtrust.org/events](http://www.alleghenylandtrust.org/events).

### NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

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Review of Last General Meeting



## From the Federation President

BY NICK PETRILLO

Welcome to the Summer of Brighton Heights! We have so many events coming up that I wanted to give a quick rundown. First, we just completed a successful Neighborhood Clean-up on April 25, and depending on when you are reading this, the first Summer Series at Legion Park is either right around the corner or just happened on May 2. Next we have the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 25, the St. Johns Green Opening on May 28 and the Lil' Bridgey 5K on May 30. Then we will have our Pride Summer Series on June 6 and a patriotic Summer Series on July 4! A brand new event: the Brighton Heights Book Fair will happen on July 18. Then there will be more Summer Series and we will head into fall looking towards a House Tour on October 3 and a Halloween Parade later that month. But I am getting ahead of myself now as we have a whole summer to enjoy first! I also want to welcome the two newest businesses to Brighton Heights, Allegheny City Brewing and Mun's Pizza on California Avenue. I hope we can all check them out and give them a warm welcome!

As an update from the last newsletter, we have chairs for all of our Committees now. Brenda Upsher is chairing the Youth and Family Committee and they are already hard at work to make our neighborhood more family-friendly than it already is. And Heather Lynn has stepped up to chair our Service and Outreach Committee; this committee will oversee the FREEEdge as well as look to bring more opportunities to our members to give back and serve their community. Thank you Brenda and Heather!

In the last two months I was able to meet with both Pittsburgh Water and Duquesne Light about some of the issues we have been having in Brighton Heights. For Pittsburgh Water, the lead line replacement program has been completed and they are moving onto repaving the streets that have been dug up. Additionally, they are in the process of procuring a valve that will allow for automatic water pressure adjustments from other areas if the Brighton

Road and Woods Run intersection has another water main break. That project will be installed on the road around Jack Stack Playground in the late summer timeframe. Duquesne Light noted that motor vehicle accidents on Rt 65 play a large part in times when Brighton Heights loses power, an unfortunate reality out of all of our hands. I inquired about the recent planned outage that was delayed at the last minute and was told it was due to an emergency elsewhere that pulled the crew at the last minute. For both organizations I asked that we keep open lines of communication going forward.

The City of Pittsburgh Community Affairs Office is partnering with Reading Ready Pittsburgh on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. This library provides free books each month that will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home. The first book is always the children's classic *The Little Engine That Could*. Best of all it is a **FREE GIFT** to your child through our partnership with local organizations! There is no cost or obligation to your family. Sign up here: [www.readingreadypittsburgh.org/dpil](http://www.readingreadypittsburgh.org/dpil)

I hope to see you some time at one of our events, or just around enjoying the weather after the rough winter we had. Here's to warm weather, cool pools, and fun times with neighbors!



PHOTO BY KRISZTINA PAPP 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.**

## Newsletter Committee:

Editor: Dave Lebec  
Manager: Regina Kolodziej  
Copy Editor: Erin Marie Yourd  
Distribution: Nick Petrillo

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

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Vice President: Brendan Delaney  
Treasurer: Robert Haller  
Corresponding Sec: Elaine Gloeckner  
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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)

Neighbors, meet Jessica Boette! Jessica is the owner of Yellow Rose Bakehouse, a small batch bakery specializing in pastries, breads, handmade candy and custom cakes. You can find her bakes every day at California Coffee Bar.

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### Tell us about your business.

I grew up in central Texas, and my recipes are all nostalgic, southern, and family favorites. My mom taught me to bake before I was tall enough to reach the mixer. I've honed my craft in professional kitchens over the last 14+ years as a pastry chef. I've done fine dining, wedding cakes, and even once made only pies for a restaurant. Starting this bakery last year has been a process of going back to my roots! I have been excited to bring the classics that we all know and love — like chocolate chip cookies — but also some unique-to-Texas-treats like kolaches!



### How can the community support you?

You can find a selection of my baked goods at California Coffee Bar in our neighborhood! I also sell at local farmers markets in Squirrel Hill and Bloomfield. If you follow us on

instagram ([@yellowrosebakehouse](https://www.instagram.com/yellowrosebakehouse)), you can see when and where we will be for markets and pop-ups and hear about all our seasonal specials!

### What does it mean for you to live and work in the same community?

I am SO fortunate to be living and working in Brighton Heights. It means so much to be able to share joy through making food for folks. To be able to do that and it to be for my neighbors means even more. I hope I can open a brick and mortar in our neighborhood someday — keeping the dream alive of walking to work and serving all my friends and neighbors!

### What is your favorite thing about Brighton Heights?

I've never lived anywhere like this and I knew that from the first week we moved here. People came to our door and were stopping us in the street just to introduce themselves and make us feel welcome. My family and I feel like we have an extended family living around us!

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Stop in for a treat at California Coffee Bar on 3619 California Ave and give Jessica a follow on social media [@yellowrosebakehouse](https://www.instagram.com/yellowrosebakehouse). If you have any ideas for who to spotlight next, please email me at [annieperricole@gmail.com](mailto:annieperricole@gmail.com).





## Meet the Board: Parker Goolsby

Greetings, neighbors! Meet Parker Goolsby, a dedicated member of the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation Board of Directors since 2022. Since moving to the neighborhood in August 2021, Parker has fully embraced the community and quickly found a sense of home among its residents.

Originally from outside Nashville, Tennessee, Parker has called Western Pennsylvania home since 2007, when he began graduate studies at Slippery Rock University. While much of his family remains in Tennessee, Parker has built a strong “chosen family” right here in Pittsburgh, many of whom are his neighbors.

Professionally, Parker is a Project Manager for an insurance auditing and data mining firm, where he has worked for nearly 11 years. His career path also includes earlier work in counseling within higher education, reflecting a longstanding commitment to helping others and building connections.

Parker shares his home with one very memorable feline companion, whom he jokingly describes as “the meanest animal in the world.” Despite her attitude, she has quite the origin story, having been rescued from a dangerous situation involving fighting dogs.

Outside of work and board service, Parker is highly active in Pittsburgh’s Stonewall Sports League, where he has captained two championship teams in bocce and bowling. His leadership and team spirit carry over into everything he does within the community.

Among the many neighborhood traditions, Parker’s favorite is the Summer Series, with a special appreciation for the Pride event in June. As one of the newest additions to the lineup, the Pride celebration has quickly become a meaningful and welcoming space. Parker takes great pride in seeing neighbors come together to support and celebrate such an inclusive and joyful event.

Through his involvement on the Board and throughout the community, Parker exemplifies what makes Brighton Heights such a special place to live: connection, pride, and a shared commitment to one another.



# LI'L BRIDGEY 5K

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

## MAY 30, 2026



## Li'l Bridgey 5K Run/Walk

BY BEN COLE

We're getting closer to the Brighton Heights Li'l Bridgey 5k! For those that have already registered, thank you. For those that are still thinking about it, there's still time.

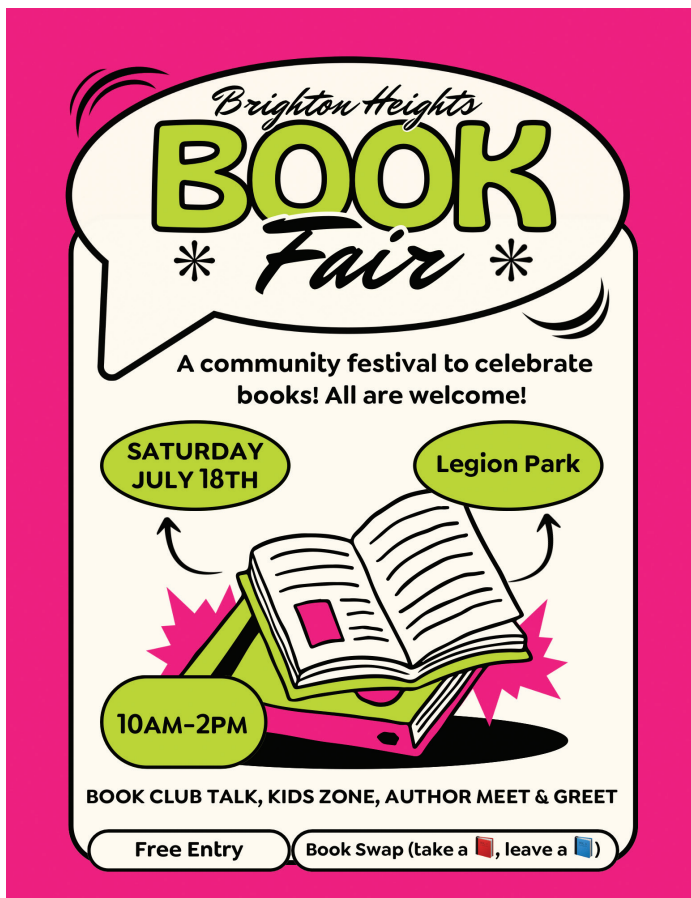
Registration is still open at <https://lilbridgey.com/5k>. Pricing is currently at \$25, with an increase to \$30 starting May 9, and then \$35 until May 29. There will be no day-of registration.

We're also looking for volunteers to assist with race day check-in and packet distribution, water station and course marshals.

To get yourself ready, we are doing early packet pick-ups on May 29. We'll be at California Coffee from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and the Brighton Heights location for Allegheny City Brewing from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Check in on race day will be at Legion Park, starting at 7:30 a.m.

We are very excited for the Brighton Heights Li'l Bridgey 5k. We cannot wait to see everyone out there!

**CONTACT:** Ben Cole  
**PHONE:** 412-901-5464  
**EMAIL:** [benmcole@gmail.com](mailto:benmcole@gmail.com)



## Brighton Heights Hosts First-Ever Summer Book Fair

BY ANNIE PERRI COLE

Brighton Heights is turning the page this summer with its very first Book Fair! Join us on Saturday, July 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Legion Park for a day full of reading, creativity, and community fun.

The Book Fair will feature a giant book swap where you can bring a book, take a book, with sections for both kids and adults. Young readers are encouraged to dress as their favorite book character and can enjoy a kids zone with hands-on activities, like making bookmarks, bedazzling books, and an interactive poetry table. For those who love a quiet moment with a story, we'll host a silent reading party — think silent disco, but with books!

Attendees can also connect with local reading resources and bookstores to gear up for a summer of literature. Plus, there will be a discussion for One Book: A Brighton Heights Greater Book Club Discussion and resources for starting new book clubs in the neighborhood. Book lovers interested in joining the discussion can email [Kyakish3@gmail.com](mailto:Kyakish3@gmail.com).

The event is free and open to everyone. We hope you'll come for the books, stay for the community!

## Gardens and Greenspaces

BY ED GERGERICH

Spring has sprung! May is usually our busiest month with a great deal of weeding, bed prep, flower planting, and mulching on our community flower gardens. However, this year the work done in April rivals if not exceeds May for effort. A large number of volunteers assembled 1,080 concrete blocks (about 20 tons) into raised beds for our St. Johns Vegetable Garden. They also filled many of the 20 beds with soil. Look for another article in this newsletter about other developments for the Vegetable Garden. There is still a lot of work to be done there before veggies can be harvested.

On the flower front, we did a lot of prep work in April, for the 3 gardens at Termon and California Avenues. But as the saying goes, "Landscaping is a project you can complete; gardening is never done." Prep work and planting will continue at all of our community gardens throughout May. If you can help at any of our gardens, give me a call at [412-779-9222](tel:412-779-9222). I can use you at the T&C3 or put you in touch with the steward of any of our other community gardens.

On Saturday, May 2, a group of volunteers planted the WPC Garden at PA-65 and Brighton Heights Blvd. As always, the Western PA Conservancy provided the flowers and mulch; BH neighbors provided the labor. Special thanks to Lisa Jordan who donated a number of Yucca plants for the borders of the garden. Also thanks to the City DPW anti-graffiti staff for eradicating some "tagging" on several of the panels of the wall behind the garden.

On Saturday, May 9, the Annual Plant Swap or Adopt event will be held at Legion Park starting at 9 a.m. Come early for the best selection.

**Stay safe, stay green.**



# St. John's Garden Update

BY ST. JOHN'S GARDEN COMMITTEE

Spring is here, and exciting progress continues at the St. John's Garden site along McClure Avenue! Since our last update in the March newsletter, we've made significant strides in bringing this community space to life. We now have firm plans to construct 20 raised garden beds using durable concrete block, creating long-lasting and accessible spaces for neighbors to grow their own vegetables, herbs, and flowers. And Pittsburgh Water has begun the installation of our water line, a major milestone that brings us closer to a fully functional garden.

Throughout April, volunteers have been working hard to prepare the site and complete construction by the start of the growing season. (If you've seen activity on April 11, 18, and beyond, you've seen this project in motion!) Once completed, there will be 20 garden plots, each sized 4' x 8'. The annual cost for a plot is \$30, and we are now accepting applications. To request one, contact us at [saintjohnsgardens@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnsgardens@gmail.com).

While our goal is to build all 20 beds, we are intentionally taking a flexible, volunteer-powered approach. Rather than rushing to complete everything at once, we are focusing on steady progress and community involvement. Beds will be completed on a rolling basis, as volunteer support is available. If you sign up for a plot that isn't built yet, we may invite you to help build your own bed alongside our team. As a thank-you, the committee is considering waiving the \$30 fee for the first year for those who participate in building their plot.

This project is truly community-driven, and we continue to need helping hands to move and place concrete blocks, fill beds with soil and compost and general site preparation and maintenance. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just curious to get involved, your help is welcome and appreciated. As we complete the garden beds, additional phases will include fencing and picnic table installation, as well as a compost bin, shed and pollinator garden. For additional information, to volunteer, or you have any questions, please contact [saintjohnsgardens@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnsgardens@gmail.com).

We're excited to see this space come to life and look forward to growing together with our neighbors this season!

Much of our progress to prepare for the 2026 growing season was made possible by the generous support of SSB Bank in their donation of \$2,500 for concrete blocks and soil. A huge thank you!! We are so appreciative of their investment in Brighton Heights!





## Memorial Day Service

BY BRENDAN DELANEY

**WHEN:** Monday, May 25, 2026

**WHERE:** Legion Park

**TIME:** 10 a.m.

Brighton Heights' annual Memorial Day Service will take place at Legion Park at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 25. Please bring your own chairs.

The placing of the flags on Veterans' graves will be at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 22 at Highwood Cemetery on Brighton Road. If you are interested in volunteering, please meet at the entrance to the cemetery.

## Save the Date: Brighton Heights House Tour

BY ANNIE PERRI COLE

Mark your calendars! The Brighton Heights House Tour is coming Saturday, October 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. We're partnering with the Brighton Heights Summer Series again and will host a great celebration with food trucks, music and vendors at Legion Park after the House Tour. The day kicks off at Legion Park, and attendees will have the chance to explore some of the neighborhood's most charming homes.

We're looking for 6–8 homes to feature on the Tour. If you'd like to showcase your house, email [annieperricole@gmail.com](mailto:annieperricole@gmail.com) to get involved. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the beauty and history of Brighton Heights!

## NEW COMMITTEE: Economic Development

BY JENNIFER SHUMAR

New in 2026! Brighton Heights Citizens Federation now has an Economic Development Committee to champion and grow the business community of Brighton Heights through outreach, advocacy and support.

If you own or operate a business in the neighborhood, we'd love to meet you. Reach out to Committee Lead Jen Shumar at a method below.

**CONTACT:** Jennifer Shumar

**PHONE:** 303-895-7443

**EMAIL:** [jennifershumar@gmail.com](mailto:jennifershumar@gmail.com)



## Next Up North

2026 North Boroughs Community Conference

### Next Up North Conference

Next Up North: 2026 North Boroughs Community Conference is a regional gathering designed to unite the communities of Bellevue, Avalon, Emsworth, Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, Westview, Brighton Heights, and Perrysville around a shared vision for community engagement, economic development, and collaborative growth. Hosted by Bellevue Forward, the conference will celebrate each borough's unique strengths while fostering meaningful dialogue and regional cooperation. This planning document outlines the goals, themes, and strategies that will guide the creation of a dynamic, inclusive event—one that empowers local leaders, strengthens neighborhood connections, and sets the stage for a vibrant, united future across the North Boroughs and connected communities. Get more information and buy tickets at <https://bellevuepa.us/nextupnorth>.

## Good News from John Morrow School

Pittsburgh Morrow Pre K- 8, Brighton Heights' neighborhood school, is growing! Members of the newly-re-formed Morrow PTO are active in the Youth and Family Committee and share this news:

Pittsburgh Morrow has a new Principal this school year: Brighton Heights neighbor and long-time PPS educator, Jennifer McNamara. Most recently, Principal McNamara was the Principal at South Brook Middle School in Brookline, and in her career has worked in several Northside schools. She is excited to be working in her neighborhood to help create and lead a strong and healthy learning community at Morrow.

As Pittsburgh Public finalizes its restructuring plan, Morrow is slated to remain open (as a preK-5 neighborhood school (in the building where the Intermediate school is now). It will then feed into the one Northside middle school which will be located in Allegheny where ATA is currently located.

Principal McNamara reports that enrollment at Morrow is growing which means they are able to add more classrooms and teachers next year!

Families interested in touring Morrow or connecting with Principal McNamara are encouraged to call the school at **412-529-6601**. They can also email Principal McNamara directly at [jmcnamara1@pghschools.org](mailto:jmcnamara1@pghschools.org).

## Youth & Family Committee: Get Involved!

The Brighton Heights Civic Federation has launched a new Youth & Family Committee focused on creating more opportunities for family participation in neighborhood activities and building connections within our community to support and enrich our young people and families.

Our focus:

- Make it easier to find family activities in Brighton Heights and the Northside.
- Add more kid-friendly programming to Civic Federation events.
- Strengthen connections with neighborhood schools like Pittsburgh Morrow.

Our next meeting is May 2 at 9:00 a.m. at Brighton Heights Lutheran Church. All are welcome — bring your ideas. A community survey is coming soon.

Join our Email List: <https://bit.ly/brighton-youth>  
For more information: [bhcfyouthandfamily@gmail.com](mailto:bhcfyouthandfamily@gmail.com)





BRIGHTON HEIGHTS CITIZENS  
FEDERATION PRESENTS

# SUMMER SERIES IN LEGION PARK

with Allegheny City Brewing  
First Saturdays • May-October • 4-8pm

Featuring  
the Brighton Heights Vendor Market

## BHCF Summer Series Returns to Legion Park This May

The community's favorite warm-weather tradition is back. The BHCF Summer Series returns to Legion Park on May 2, kicking off a season full of music, local flavor, and neighborly connection.

Running from May through October, the series will take place on the first Saturday of every month, bringing together residents and visitors for relaxed evenings in the park. Each event features a mix of live music, local food, beverages from Allegheny City Brewing, and the BHCF Vendor Market, highlighting small businesses and makers from the region.

As always, attendees can expect the laid-back, welcoming atmosphere that has made the Summer Series a staple of the season, along with a few new enhancements planned throughout the Summer. One such enhancement is a partnership with Bellevue Forward for the June, July and August events. This will bring more vendors and more visitors to our beautiful neighborhood.

The event is free and family-friendly, making it an easy and enjoyable outing for all ages. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets, gather with friends and neighbors, and settle in for an evening of great food, live entertainment, and community spirit.

Whether you come for the music, the market or simply to enjoy a Summer evening outdoors, the BHCF Summer Series offers something for everyone. We look forward to seeing you in the park.

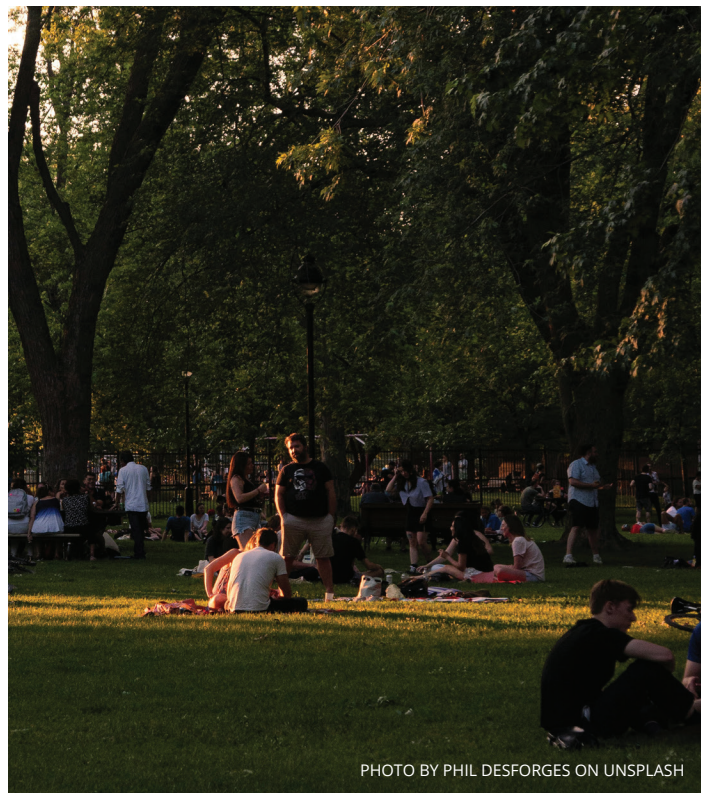


PHOTO BY PHIL DESFORGES ON UNSPLASH



## From Councilman Bobby Wilson

Hello Brighton Heights! As spring rolls in, it's a wonderful time to embrace renewal, fresh beginnings, and the steady progress our district continues to achieve. I'm pleased to share some recent highlights and accomplishments from my

office as we remain focused on keeping the D1 community informed, engaged, and connected.

As I previously shared, I introduced zoning legislation, Bill 2025-2250, to address the increasing number of vape shops opening across the City. The bill is currently under review by the Planning Commission. Once Council receives their report and recommendation, a public hearing will be held prior to Council's final vote. Once that date is confirmed, it will be published on the City Clerk's website: <https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/City-Government/The-City-Council/Clerks-Office>. I encourage you and your neighbors to share your perspectives, as community input plays an essential role in this process.

I would also like to highlight recent community walkthroughs conducted by my office in partnership with the Mayor's Office, Public Safety, PLI, DOMI, and DPW in neighboring communities. These visits provided an opportunity to see firsthand the issues impacting residents. These departments are now working collaboratively to address concerns such as abandoned properties, weeds and debris, and utility wire maintenance. As soon as the date is scheduled for the Brighton Heights walkthrough, my office will alert the BHCF Board.

This leads to another key issue: abandoned vehicles in our neighborhoods. This continues to be one of the most common concerns brought to my office. I'm pleased to share that, in coordination with Mayor O'Connor and City Police, an abandoned vehicle initiative is currently underway. This effort is removing unused vehicles from neighborhoods across the city, helping to free up parking and improve the overall appearance of our communities.

I'm excited to share that DOMI is planning safety and traffic improvements at the intersection of Brighton Heights Blvd, California Ave, and Termon Ave, a vital connection for residents. They recently conducted a community survey to identify traffic safety concerns and gather input on improvements. The plan will develop a safe, accessible

design for the intersection and estimate costs. For the latest updates, please visit the project's Engage Page: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/brighton-heights-california-termon-intersection-improvement>.

I appreciate your continued involvement and commitment to your neighborhood. If you have any questions or concerns, 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](mailto:district1@pittsburghpa.gov)

**X (FORMERLY TWITTER):** @Dist1Pgh

**FACEBOOK:** Office of Councilman Bobby Wilson

**INSTAGRAM:** @councilmanbobbywilson

**NEWSLETTER SIGNUP:** [pittsburghpa.gov/City-Government/City-Council/Districts/Bobby-Wilson-District-1](https://pittsburghpa.gov/City-Government/City-Council/Districts/Bobby-Wilson-District-1)



## State Senate Passes Bill to Protect Minors from AI Companion Chatbots

With the growing prevalence of relational bonds between humans and artificial intelligence (AI), experts and advocates are highlighting the need for guardrails and regulations to ensure user safety and well-being. This is especially true when it comes to minors and the use of companion AI chatbots, which are specifically designed to initiate and maintain human relationships through empathy, offering users nonjudgmental responses and continual validation. To get ahead of this technology, in March, state lawmakers advanced Senate Bill 1090 (SB 1090) that would establish safeguards for the use of AI chatbots by minors.

The Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitative Chatbots and Harmful AI Technology Act (SAFECHAT), requires companies that develop and operate companionship-focused chatbots to disclose “a clear and conspicuous notification indicating that the AI companion is artificially generated and not human” if there is reason to believe a user is a minor. This legislation also prohibits the operators of chatbots from allowing the technology to engage in sexually explicit conduct or producing sexually explicit images to minors. Users will be notified this technology may not be suitable for people under the age of 18 under SB 1090 as well as periodic reminders will be issued that encourages breaks from using chatbots.

Additionally, the SAFECHAT Act would require companies and individuals that operate AI companions to establish protocols to prevent the chatbots from producing content related to violence towards others or suicide or self-harm. Under the bill, such protocols must notify users of crisis service providers and

human-staffed hotlines if the individual shows signs of suicidal ideation or self-harm. This comes amid mounting concerns regarding several high-profile lawsuits against tech companies alleging that AI chatbots have pushed users to suicide.

The bill directs the state Attorney General’s office to enforce the law and would allow civil penalties of up to \$10,000 for AI service operators that violate it. However, it is important to point out that SB 1090’s provisions would apply only to companion-focused chatbots, not to broader artificial intelligence tools like AI assistants.

In his budget address in February, Governor Shapiro said that AI bots were representing themselves in ways that were arguably illegal under the state’s professional standards laws. He added that he has directed many state departments under his jurisdiction to explore all legal options to hold the developers of these apps accountable.

In the meantime, SB 1090 was sent to the Pennsylvania House of Representative where if passed as written, the governor is expected to sign the bill into law.

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

**PHONE:** 412-344-2551

**EMAIL:** fontana@pasenate.com

**WEBSITE:** www.senatorfontana.com

**TWITTER:** @WayneDFontana

**NEWSLETTER SIGNUP:** www.senatorfontana.com

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## From Congresswoman Summer Lee

I spent the last week back home in PA-12, and I wanted to share a quick look at some of the people, places, and work that shaped the week before I head back to DC.

I had the opportunity to connect with community leaders, educators, advocates, and neighbors across our district who are doing the everyday work of building stronger, healthier communities. From learning more about expanded access to mental health services with Mind Dojo in Monroeville, to honoring the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente in Lawrenceville, every stop last week was a reminder of the deep care, history, and pride that live across PA-12.

This week also included time with Pittsburgh Public Schools staff and early childhood educators, where I heard directly about how Head Start and other early learning programs help students and families thrive. I talked to folks about

my bill — the Head Start for America’s Children Act — that would expand access to Head Start and strengthen support for the program that would give kids, families, and educators the resources they need to succeed.

I also spent time at Carrie Furnaces in Rankin with Rivers of Steel, where we reflected on Pittsburgh’s industrial legacy and the importance of preserving the places and stories that shaped our region, while continuing to invest in the people and communities carrying that legacy forward today.

I’m grateful to everyone who took the time to meet, share, and build with me this week. Serving PA-12 means showing up, staying connected to our communities, and continuing the fight for the resources, opportunity, and dignity we all know our people deserve.



## From State Rep. Emily Kinkead

### SHRED WITH ME IN ROSS ON MAY 30

As Spring turns to Summer, many of us take the opportunity to declutter our homes, clean out old files, and get organized. But as you sort through stacks of paperwork, it's important

to remember that simply tossing documents in the trash can put your personal information at risk. Identity theft remains a serious concern, and one of the easiest and most effective ways to protect yourself is by securely shredding documents that contain sensitive data.

I'm excited to invite you to my upcoming free document shredding event on Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Ross Department of Public Works, located at 225 Cemetery Lane. I'm proud to once again partner with State senator Lindsey Williams to offer this service to our community.

This event is a simple but powerful way to help safeguard your personal information. Old bank statements, medical records, credit card offers, tax documents, and anything else containing identifying details should not be thrown away intact. Shredding these materials helps ensure that your information cannot be recovered and misused. In an era where scams and fraud are increasingly common, taking this extra step can make a real difference in protecting your financial security and peace of mind.

In addition to helping you safely dispose of sensitive documents, my staff and I will be on-site throughout the event to answer questions, provide tips on protecting your data, and share information about state programs and resources that may be helpful to you or your family. Whether you're looking for assistance with property tax relief, utility programs, or other services, we're always here to help connect you with the support you need.

To keep the event running smoothly and safely, we do ask participants to follow a few simple guidelines. Each household is limited to two boxes or two kitchen-size garbage bags of paper for shredding. And to avoid traffic backups and ensure everyone can participate, cars will not be permitted to line up more than 30 minutes before the event begins.

Events like this are about more than just clearing out clutter. They're about bringing our community members together. When we take steps to protect ourselves from identity theft, we're also helping to reduce opportunities

for fraud that can impact others. It's a small action that contributes to a larger sense of security for everyone.

I encourage you to gather up those old documents, bring them by, and take advantage of this free service. It's quick, easy, and an important step toward protecting your personal information.

If you have questions about this event, or any state-related issue, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office. I look forward to seeing you on May 30 and helping you shred with confidence.

**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

**BLUESKY:** @repemilykinkead.com



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER GREY ON UNSPLASH

# MINUTES (Review of Previous General Membership Meeting)

## MARCH 12, 2026

- Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. with 55 in attendance.
- Minutes taken by the Recording Secretary.
- Pledge of Allegiance recited.

## SPECIAL GUESTS:

### Pittsburgh Police

- Since last meeting 32 reports: 1 aggravated assault, 1 burglary .
- Introduction to Sgt. Horvath.
- Chief Lando introduced; Chief's objectives for the Police Department are:
  - Reducing violent crime and quality of life crime;
  - Officers' wellness;
  - Professional development;
  - Recruit and retention.
- Questions on nuisance homes, fights after school, middle school kids, Benton Ave speeding.
- Community event at Police Headquarters.
- Question about fatal traffic accident.

### DOMI

- Presentation on 5-point intersection.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

### Representative Kinkead

#### Rob Conroy

- Property tax and rent rebate info available.
- May 30 shredding event at Ross Public Works.

### Councilman Wilson

#### Morgan

- Short-term rental bill pending.
- Residential and zoning bill pending.
- Bait shop bill pending.

### Mayor's Office

#### TJ

- Recycling cans replacement through 311.
- Childhood literacy program.
- Capital Budget meetings.
- Newsletter.
- Permits for vending.
- Reports of 311; 761 – mostly for snow and salt and missed pickups.

### County Council

#### Jordan Botta

- Main St Allegheny passed; minimal benefit to the City.
- ICE bill.
- Pending bill for tenants against landlords.

## REPORT OF OFFICERS AND OTHERS:

### Executive:

#### President's Report

##### Nicholas Petrillo

- Pgh Water: handout; last week for dig up. Resurfacing to start; new valves up for bid. Construction planned for summer.
- California Ave Bridge; edges are the problem. Weight diverted to the center; weight limits will happen before closure.
- St. John's site: May 28 Grand Opening.
- Short-term rental legislation; Nick spoke at the Zoning Board. New permitting system.

#### Vice President's Report

##### Brendan Delaney

- Allegheny Brewing to open soon; please frequent.
- NSLC: No scholarships to be awarded this year.

### Finance:

#### Treasurer's Report

- Cash on hand: \$30,459.
- Taxes filed.
- Fleming house sold.

### Communications:

#### Recording Secretary

- Motion to approve the Minutes for the January General Meeting as published in the newsletter by Todd McCollum; second by Stacey Berkeblie. Motion passes.

#### Corresponding Secretary

- 4 welcome bags delivered.
- 4 new bags to deliver.

#### Communications Chair

- Website updates upcoming.
- News going out on our Instagram account.

### New Committees:

#### Economic Development

- Had one meeting.
- Emphasis on business outreach.
- Collaboration with Bellevue Forward.

#### Youth and Family

- Attempting to meet with schools for school improvement.
- Next meeting: March 28 at 9 a.m.

#### Policies and Procedures

- No report.

#### Service and Outreach

- Looking for coordination.

#### History

- No report.

#### St. John's Site Gardens

- Received \$2,500 from SNB Bank with the Board to match.
- April 11 and 18 are workdays.
- See flyer.

### Events:

#### Summer Series

- Summer Series will return.
- Looking to add vendors.

### 5K Race

- May 30 is new date.
- All paces are welcome.
- Rock painting on March 28.

### Memorial Day

- May 22: Flag Planting at Highwood Cemetery.
- May 25: Memorial Day service at Legion Park.
- Dedicated to 3 people.

### Plant Sale

- Order forms available; April 10 deadline.
- Plants will be in time for Mother's Day.
- Delivery only

### House Tour

- Saturday, October 3.
- Volunteers needed.

### New Business:

- Trash pick-up: April 25; party afterwards.

### Old Business:

- No old business.

### Anything for the Good of the Federation

- Birding at the Library.
- 50/50.

### Adjournment.

- Motion to adjourn by Seth; second by Parker; meeting adjourned.

### *Minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Todd McCollum*



### Last Page Laugh

by Tom Kaylor

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

***"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](http://www.brightonheights.org)

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