



Serving Beechview, Brookline, Bon Air, Carrick, Mt. Washington and Overbrook

This is a monthly newsletter sent by Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak to constituents and others who are interested in District 4 Neighborhoods. Together, we can make our neighborhoods better places to live, work, and play. Staying informed is part of that process! Please forward this newsletter to your friends and neighbors, and encourage them to subscribe. Have questions that you'd like to see addressed in an upcoming newsletter? Contact our Constituent Services Manager, Ashleigh Deemer: ashleigh.deemer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or 412-255-2131.

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District 4 News

2011 Farmers' Markets

You don't have to leave the city to buy farm-fresh veggies! Citiparks Farmers' Markets set up weekly at a variety of locations throughout the City. Farmers' Markets accept Food Benefits, but only for unprocessed foods, such as tomatoes and corn (not jam or bread). Check out these locations in District 4! For more information, call 412-422-6547

Wednesdays, 3:30-7:30 (opens 6/1)-- Carrick Shopping Center (Brownsville Rd. & Parkfield)

Thursdays, 3:30-7:30 (opens 6/9)-- Beechview (Beechview & Broadway Avenues)

Seton Center in Brookline also hosts a Farm Stand every Wednesday (opens 6/15), 11 AM-6 PM. They accept cash, EBT, WIC and Senior FMNP Vouchers.

FMNP (short for Farmer's Market Nutrition Program) Vouchers will be distributed on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at Our Lady of Loreto School between 9 AM and 5 PM. The WIC FMNP is associated with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC. The WIC program provides supplemental foods, health care referrals and nutrition education at no cost to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding post-partum women, and to infants and children up to 5 years of age, who are found to be at nutritional risk. Click the link for a fact sheet about this program: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/WIC-FMNP-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Summer Fun in the Sun!

Are you ready for summer? If so, it's time to check out the Citiparks 2011 Summer Schedule! As usual, there are lots of fun, affordable activities to keep you and your family busy! For a complete listing, go to <http://www.citiparks.net>. If you would like a paper copy of the Citiparks Summer Magazine, we're happy to send one out to you. Simply call our office at 412-255-2131. Without further adieu, here are some handpicked District 4 resources and activities for your sunny summer enjoyment!

Swimming Pools and Spray Parks

Daily Admission Fees are \$3 for children ages 3-15 and \$4 for people 16 and older. Beginning June 1, you can purchase pool tags for the entire season: \$60 for a family of four; \$10 each additional family member; \$30 adult (16 years +); \$15 youth (3-15 yrs); free (child 2 and under). Aquatics programs, like swim lessons and aerobics are available. Call 412-323-7928 or check citiparks.net for more info.

- Moore Park Pool-- 1801 Pioneer Avenue in Brookline-- 412-571-3223
- Phillips Park Pool-- 201 Parkfield Street in Carrick-- 412-885-7498
- Beechview Spray Park-- Orangetown Street in Beechview-- 412-323-7928

Community Centers

- Brookline-- 1400 Oakridge Street-- 412-571-3222
- Phillips (Carrick)-- 201 Parkfield Street-- 412-885-7445
- Warrington (Beltzhoover)-- 329 E. Warrington Ave.-- 412-488-8369

Senior Community Centers

- Beechview Senior Center-- 1555 Broadway Avenue-- 412-571-3224

Movies in Brookline Memorial Park

Thursdays (June 9-August 25) at dusk

Grab a blanket or lawn chair and head out for an unforgettable, FREE evening of cinema under the stars! Inclement weather may cause cancellations-- listen to KDKA or check www.citiparks.net for cancellations. For more information, call 412-422-6426.

- June 9-- Legend of the Guardians (PG)
- June 16-- Letters to Juliet (PG)
- June 23-- Furry Vengeance (PG)
- June 30-- How to Train Your Dragon (PG)
- July 7-- Justin Bieber Never Say Never (G)
- July 14-- Despicable Me (PG)

- July 21-- The Karate Kid (PG)
- July 28-- Shrek Forever After (PG)
- August 4-- The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG)
- August 11-- Disney Nature Presents "Oceans" (G)
- August 18-- Secretariat (PG)
- August 25-- Tangled (PG)

Events

- June 22: Roving Art Cart-- ages 5-12 welcome-- Phillips Community Center, Carrick
- July 5: Roving Art Cart-- ages 5-12 welcome-- Beechview Spray Park, Beechview
- July 13: Roving Art Cart-- ages 5-12 welcome-- Moore Park, Brookline
- July 16-17: Beltzhoover Community Festival-- Upper McKinley Park- 12-7 PM
- August 4: Roving Art Cart-- ages 5-12 welcome-- Warrington Community Center, Beltzhoover
- August 12: Roving Art Cart-- ages 5-12 welcome-- Brookline Community Center, Brookline
- August 13: Brookline Breeze 5K-- 8:35 AM -- www.brooklinebreeze.com
- August 13: Brookline Community Day- after Brookline Breeze until 2 PM @ Brookline Community Center
- August 20: Carrick Community Cornfest-- noon to 6 PM @ Phillips Park

South Pittsburgh Summer Fun Guide Lists Activities for Kids

And if that isn't enough, parents looking for activities to keep their children busy this summer have another resource for recreation programs, this one specific to the South Pittsburgh area. The Summer Fun in the South 2011 Guide is a list of recreation programs, along with their locations, program descriptions, eligibility requirements, fees, contact information and more. Summer Fun in the South 2011 is available for download in electronic form at www.birminghamfoundation.org and www.sopghreporter.com.

Good News You Won't Hear in the News

- On May 11, 2011, Councilwoman Rudiak honored a group of fantastic students from Carrick High School and their amazing teacher, Diane Rutten. These

students have built a community garden from scratch, and are using the harvest for the Culinary Arts classes and to help needy families. You can read more about one student's journey here:

<http://www.theconsortiumforpubliceducation.org/carricktfimmay2011.htm>

- We have a historian among us! The Civil War-era collection of Carrick resident Mike Woshner is on display at the Stan Hywet Hall and Garden complex in Akron, OH. The seventh-largest historic estate in the United States was once home to the magnate of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Take a day trip and check it out: <http://www.stanhywet.org/dynamic/promo2.aspx>
- Congratulations to the Throughline Theatre Company of Brookline, another recipient of a proclamation by City Council. The company, which performs at the Seton Center on Pioneer Avenue, as well as schools and libraries across the region, hosts compelling, provocative, and thoroughly entertaining performances. We thank them for their commitment to arts and creativity in our community. Their 2011 season starts June 9; for more information: <http://www.throughlinetheatre.org>
- Yes, Hines Ward won Dancing with the Stars. But do you know that we have dancing stars in our own neighborhoods? Tuesday May 23, 2011 was Dancing Classrooms Day in the City of Pittsburgh! Kids from public schools across the city, including Pittsburgh Carmalt and West Liberty, competed in ballroom dance finals, and members of the public were treated to a colorful performance of Merengue, Foxtrot, Rumba, Tango and Swing! View our kids strut their stuff at the Dancing Classrooms Semi-finals here: (or just do a Youtube search for "Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh") www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKHxLBHVyPA Parents tell us that the competition was a real tear-jerker, so you might want to get your Kleenex. It is a joy to see these kids get so excited about something so positive.

Light Rail Gets a Makeover in District 4-- Draft Recommendations

For the past year, community groups, public officials, the Port Authority and other stakeholders have been working on a plan to figure out how to use our wonderful light rail system in the best possible way to benefit our communities. It is called a TRID-- "Transit Revitalization Investment District" - Study. We have been working with a group called Interface Design and have had community meetings to come up with the coolest and most economically feasible ideas. You can see the links to the preliminary presentations at the links below - we look forward to seeing the final report in the coming

weeks.

- South Hills Junction Public Meeting- 4-19-11 - Recommendations: www.interface-studio.com/isftp/PittTRID/RecommendationsPresentation_SHJ_NoAnim.pdf
- Beechview Public Meeting- 4-20-11 - Recommendations: www.interface-studio.com/isftp/PittTRID/RecommendationsPresentation_BV_NoAnim.pdf

Help Us Identify Local Veteran-Owned Businesses!

In time for this Memorial Day weekend, the Office of Councilwoman Rudiak is trying to identify as many veteran-owned businesses in District 4 as possible. Profiles for businesses will be promoted in local media and listed on a dedicated webpage for veteran-owned businesses in Pittsburgh. If you know of anyone who has served in the military and now owns a business in South Pittsburgh, please pass along their contact information to our office or kate@victorymediainc.com

It's Your Government

The More You Know: Parking on the Sidewalk

Many of Pittsburgh's narrow streets are relics from a time when we didn't need two or more parking space per home...or even from times before cars! That's created a problem for many constituents, who oftentimes need two, three, or even four parking spaces for their families. The topography of District 4 is especially challenging, as many houses were built on hillsides, where a driveway or garage is simply impractical. These circumstances have led to many of us parking on the sidewalk, so that we can use both sides of the street for parking without blocking traffic and emergency vehicles. We've heard from a lot of you on this issue, particularly since [KDKA's story in April](#) about a rash of tickets issued on E. Agnew Avenue in Carrick.

The issue certainly isn't one-sided. Let's look at the facts:

- Parking on the sidewalk in the City is currently illegal, and can be enforced by issuance of a ticket.
- Some streets allow parking on both sides, but are not wide enough to accommodate all four wheels on the street.
- Passable sidewalks are critical to maintain pedestrian safety

- Passable streets are critical to maintain access for emergency vehicles
- Maintenance of sidewalks is the property owner's responsibility, and parking on the sidewalks can cause damage.
- If a sidewalk is unsafe (cracked, offset, sunken, etc), Building Inspection can issue a citation to the property owner, and an order for the violation to be corrected.
- To fix an unsafe sidewalk, a property owner must apply for a sidewalk repair permit, and the work *must* be done according to City Code (concrete, not asphalt; level;etc).

Cars are probably here to stay, so our office is looking at possible solutions, like improving parking code, sidewalk code, and other solutions, like co-op parking areas for neighbors. We are very much in the early stages of this discussion, and we welcome your comments on the issue.

In the meantime, here are several resources to use if you are concerned about sidewalk parking!

- To report people parking on your sidewalk (to avoid damage and pedestrian hazards), call 9-1-1 and when an officer is available, they will ticket the car parked on the sidewalk in front of your property.
- To report a damaged sidewalk that causes a pedestrian hazard, use 311, and be sure to include the address. This will dispatch the complaint to the Bureau of Building Inspection. Dial 3-1-1 or use the online form:
http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/html/311_request_form.html
- To report a street that is not passable due to cars parked on both sides, dial 911.

Have Questions about Your City Government?

Send us a web form, and we'll pick one question to answer per Newsletter! Web form:

http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district4/html/district_4_feedback.html

Neighborhood Resources / Coming Up!

Improving our neighborhoods and keeping them great is a process that requires involvement from people like you. Be active, and join us at any of the following events or meetings. We can't do it without you!

If you have questions about any of these events, feel free to give our office a call: 412-255-2131

Town Hall Meeting with Councilwoman Rudiak

Thursday, May 31st @ 6PM at Cannon Coffee in Brookline (802 Brookline Blvd.)

Join us at cozy Cannon Coffee for a community conversation. Have questions for the Councilwoman? Bring 'em! This is a great opportunity to learn more about your City Councilor and engage her on issues that you care about the most. All are welcome! Thank you to local residents and Cannon Coffee for organizing and hosting this!

Jay Costa Town Hall Meeting about State Budget Cuts

Thursday, June 2 at 7 PM @ Concord K-5 Elementary (2350 Brownsville Rd.)

In the coming weeks, PA lawmakers will make significant decisions in regards to the state budget for FY 2011-12. Those decisions will greatly impact our local schools, state universities and communities in the coming year. Governor Corbett has proposed slashing higher education by 50%, reducing basic education funding by \$1.1 billion and lowering the funding to community colleges by 10%. At the same time, the governor's proposal will likely result in significant property tax increases and require many important community programs to be cut.

In order to hear your views, as well as the views of the public and other community leaders in the area, regarding these proposed cuts, the state budget priorities for the coming fiscal year and other state issues, state Senator Costa is hosting this meeting.

"Butta Bing" Community Meeting in Overbrook

Tuesday, June 7th at 6:30 PM @ Fairhaven Church on Rt. 51

The owners of the burnt-out former strip club have submitted an application to the Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) to reconstruct the building and re-open the strip club. This is considered a "non-conforming use" and will need special permission from the ZBA to move forward. Councilwoman Rudiak and the Overbrook Community Council are hosting this meeting to hear residents' concerns. The ZBA meeting to hear this application is at 9:00 AM on June 9, 2011 at 200 Ross Street, Third Floor, and residents are welcome to

attend this as well.

Beechview Area Concerned Citizens + Beechview Blockwatch

Thursday, June 2, 7:00 PM @ the Beechview United Presbyterian Church hall (1621 Broadway Avenue)

- <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Beechview/>
- <http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov/WatchGroupDetail.aspx?groupID=420>
- NEW! Community Leaders United for Beechview has a NEW website:
<http://www.beechview.org>

First Time Homebuyer Workshop!

Thursday, June 2, 7:00 PM @ Cannon Coffee (802 Brookline Boulevard)

Cannon Coffee is hosting a First Time Home Buyer Workshop! Get the facts- start the process- make connections. The host, Dana Scotti from Wells Fargo will bring in real-estate agents, brokers, insurance agents, and credit repair specialists to help you become a confident, educated home buyer.

This event will be a two-hour workshop where you can ask questions, no-obligation, and Cannon Coffee will be firing up the BBQ to ease the mood. This event is open to anyone from anywhere.

Brookline Block Watch

Tuesday, June 14th, 7:00-9:00 PM @ Judge Jim Motznik's office (736 Brookline Blvd)

<http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov/WatchGroupDetail.aspx?groupID=423>

Zone 3 Public Safety Meeting

Hear your Community Relations Officer Christine Luffey, and voice concerns you have in your neighborhood. Pittsburgh Police Zone 3 consists of Carrick, Overbrook, Bon Air, Mt. Washington, as well as the South Side Flats and Hilltop neighborhoods.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 15th, 6:00-7:30 PM at the Bon Air School in Bon Air (252 Fordyce)