

# Brook Park Journal

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### Board Openings

What do you like about your neighborhood? What would you like to see added? What changes would you like to see? You could be a part of what makes our ‘hood great and/or work to see the changes you want by being a part of the Civic Association board. The board currently has vacancies and is looking for individuals who want to support our neighborhood and make a difference. YOU could be the reason our neighborhood is great! Interested? Contact [brookparkmanor@gmail.com](mailto:brookparkmanor@gmail.com)

### Call for Submissions

Don't forget! You can share your expertise in our From the Pros section. What helpful hints can you share with our neighborhood? What is your favorite memory of Brook Park? We would all love to hear it! Submit it and it will be featured in our "Resident Reflections" section. Your kids can be featured as well, and we'd love to share birth announcements or other good news! Please share their artwork and writing so we can all celebrate them! Submissions can be a PDF of a scan or a picture. All submissions can be sent to [wilkinson.theresa@gmail.com](mailto:wilkinson.theresa@gmail.com).

### Be Kind and Slow Down

Our neighborhood is a great place to walk! It's always nice to get out and see neighborhood friends, stretch those legs and get some fresh air and sunshine. Most days, there are kids playing and bikers and skateboarders as well. These are all reasons we all need to TAKE IT SLOW when driving in the neighborhood. We want to keep our streets safe for everyone. Please make sure you are abiding by posted speed limit signs in the neighborhood. Be mindful that we share our roads, not just with other cars, but with pedestrians, kids, dogs, bikers, and the occasional wayward ball. **Be kind and slow down.**

### Weekly Food Trucks Return!

Big thanks to Nicki Gronsky for bringing back the weekly Wednesday Food Trucks in Brook Park! Some favorites will return, as well as some new trucks. We will be offering monthly coffee trucks as well as dessert trucks on select dates. Trucks start in March and run through November. Be sure to follow Brook Park Manor on Facebook and keep an eye out for weekly emails.

**March 10**, 4-7p Bados Pizza

**March 24**, 4-7p Evil Swine BBQ  
with Sinkers & Suds

**March 27**, 8:30-10:30a Urban Coffee

**March 31**, 4-7p Yovi's



### Save the Date: Easter Egg Hunt!



Plans are in the works for an Easter egg hunt this spring. More details TBD. If you're interested in helping out please email [hollykikel@gmail.com](mailto:hollykikel@gmail.com)



### It's POOL TIME!

It's below freezing and there's snow in the forecast. It's the perfect time to start thinking about the pool! Registration will open for the 2021 pool season in the following order:

Members & Neighborhood Residents:  
Monday, FEBRUARY 1  
General Public: Monday, MARCH 1

- **We plan to be open for the 2021 pool season May 29-September 5. That's 104 days of sun, friends, water and getting out of the house.**
- You are welcome to use the paper form and check. Forms can be found on the web site ([click here](#)) or in the annual Civic Association mailing (for those of you in the neighborhood). Forms and check can be mailed to: P.O. Box 640, Ingomar, PA 15127
- **If you are sending a paper form, please email [brookparkswimclub@gmail.com](mailto:brookparkswimclub@gmail.com) so we can reserve your spot!**
- For those paying online, there will be a 3% surcharge.
- No guest passes will be sold at this time. We will open sales for guest passes once we see what CDC guidelines will be for the upcoming pool season. We are very hopeful to be able to welcome guests again this year!
- Last year, we reached our cap and had to turn people away. We anticipate this happening again this year. If you wish to join and enjoy the water, sun and friends, get your registration in ASAP to ensure your spot.
- We are hopeful that we will be able to offer our favorite events, guest passes and snack shop. We are already working on several events including Coach Dave camps, weekly day camps, tie dye day, movie nights and more. We can promise you we will offer as much as CDC guidelines allow.



## Heroes 4 Hannah: Update on Hannah Pyles

One of our bravest Brook Park neighbors, Hannah Pyles, is just 3 years old but is still smiling as she battles a rare form of childhood cancer. You probably read about the "Hustle for Hannah" and several neighborhood events to support Hannah and her parents, Amanda & Chris and big sis Abigail. We were so thrilled to include a good news update on Hannah this month:

*Hello Brook Park neighbors! Firstly, we want to thank everyone for the incredible support this neighborhood has been for our family since Hannah's diagnosis in June. We have received meals, gifts, decorations and help with snow removal, and that's just the short list. So thank you for making this a bit easier.*

*Hannah has completed all of her chemotherapy, a 15 hour tumor removal surgery and had no evidence of disease when heading into her double stem cell transplants. She passed through it all with such grace, it's inspiring. The next step for her is 12 radiation treatments. Our family will be packing up our camper and going to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in March to get proton radiation there. By the way, we apologize for the eye sore that our driveway has been this winter! After that is done, she will come back to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to do the immunotherapy portion of her treatment. This will consist of a 5 day stay in the PICU once a month for 5 months. Please continue to pray for Hannah and our family as she finishes treatment this year, and for a lifetime ahead of making memories!*

*We still are overwhelmed by the support we receive from everyone here. We often still get gifts and people have been gifting us meals from Kat. We are so thankful and I'm not sure we could do this journey living anywhere else.*

## Helping Hands in our Area

To say it's been a challenging year is an understatement. Here are a few local groups who can help, and great sources of info!



### North Hills Community Outreach

412-487-6316

<https://www.nhco.org>

They provide a wide range of services including legal counseling, help with utilities, employment assistance, services for seniors, transportation, food bank among others. They specifically offer Cares, a program for anyone who has experienced a job loss and/or reduction of income due to the pandemic. They take monetary and food donations at most locations. Allison Park is the closest.

### Lasagna Love

<https://www.lasagnalove.org/>

Lasagna Love was started at the beginning of the pandemic, when the founder of Good to Mama was looking for a way to help moms in her community. She and her toddler started making and delivering meals to families in the neighborhood who were struggling, whether that struggle was financial, emotional, or simply a feeling of overwhelm. Lasagna Love has since grown into a national movement, with thousands of people all cooking and delivering meals to families in their communities. On their web site you can request, nominate and/or volunteer.

## Laughter is Good for You!

Last month we featured some scientific facts on why laughter is soothing to the soul. From improving mood to lowering stress to boosting your health, laughter is good for you! Need a laugh and don't know where to find one? Try The Pittsburgh Dad on YouTube. Below are some links that are guaranteed to crack a smile.

[Pittsburgh Dad 1](#)

[Pittsburgh Dad 2](#)

[Pittsburgh Dad 3](#)

[Pittsburgh Dad 4](#)

If these didn't do this trick, check out this banana slicer on Amazon. Okay, it's not the actual product that's funny... Scroll down to read the questions and reviews. The videos people posted are a good chuckle: [Banana Slicer Link](#)

## And to top it off, here are this month's jokes!

Why does a duck have feathers?

To cover his butt quack!



What do you get when you cross a vampire with a snowman? Frostbite!

What does a house wear? Address!

Why is dark spelled with a K, not a C?  
Because you can't C in the dark!

What did the grape say when it was squeezed?  
Nothing. It just let out a little wine!

What do you call an alligator in a vest?  
An investigator!

If a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure!?

Have you ever eaten a clock?  
No, why? It's time consuming!

I don't trust stairs. They're always up to something.

If you ever get cold, just stand in a corner. They're always 90 degrees.

If you ever get an email about pork, ham, salt and preservatives, don't open it. It's spam.

I went to the zoo yesterday and saw a baguette in a cage. The keeper said, "don't worry, it was bread in captivity."



### **Welcome Baby Girl: Emily Jane Shultz!**

Born January 31, 2021 8 lbs 6 oz, 20"

Welcomed by parents,

Dustin & Andrea Shultz and big sister, Sammy,  
4 of Broadmeadow Dr.

**Congratulations to the Shultz Family!**

### Care Team

Brook Park Manor is looking to start a care team. The goal of the care team is to help residents of Brook Park in a time of need. The care team could provide assistance with errands, grocery delivery, snow or leaf removal, or just a friendly check in. We are looking for someone to initiate and organize the care team, as well as some team members who can help out when they get a call. We are still developing this idea and what might be involved. If you are someone with a passion for community service, and want to lead this team, or if you are in need we can help. Please contact Nate Bopp by email at [nate.bopp@gmail.com](mailto:nate.bopp@gmail.com)

### Franklin Park Recycling Update



Franklin Park recently changed their recycling guidelines and glass is no longer being accepted. You can visit their website to view the [residential recycling guidelines](#) for detailed list of items residents are required to recycle.

- Currently glass, plastics 3-7, cartons, tires, Household Hazardous Waste (batteries, electronics, chemicals, paint etc.), wood or yard waste (except grass clippings) CANNOT be placed at curbside for pickup. Grass clippings should be placed in black plastic bags and placed with your weekly trash.
- Household Hazardous Waste; such as electronic waste (computer systems, TVs), chemicals, paints, batteries, fluorescent tubes and similar items cannot be placed out for curbside pick up. See the information provided on the [At Your Door Special Collection](#) page.

### The Brook Park Phases

“Oh, I live over in phase 2.”  
 “Do you remember them? They lived in phase 3.”  
 “Yeah, I live at the bottom of the hill over in phase 1.”

We have all heard these descriptions. They seem to be the common way of identifying locations in our community. There exist invisible lines that chop up the neighborhood, providing people with a frame of reference. However, few people have these areas defined for them and there is definitely a mystery of which streets actually fall into each phase. Adding to the confusion is so many streets including the words broad and king. Lets be honest...many of us have never learned the street names outside the streets that border our home for this very reason! Consider the following a brief lesson. All street names are spelled how Allegheny County has them listed.

Phase 1 is immediately off Fassinger Lane, bordering the farm. It consists of Broad Meadow Drive and Harvest Manor Drive. It also includes Broad Hill Drive from the break in the sidewalk (roughly 8601) to the cul-de-sac. There are 68 homes in phase 1, all being built between 1976-1978.

Phase 2 is much larger with 142 homes built between 1978-1980. Phase 2 includes Broadlawn Drive, Woodview Drive and Meadow Crest Drive. Broadlawn and Woodview come together to make a loop with Meadowcrest cutting through the middle. Finally, Phase 3 which includes King James Drive, King Albert Drive, King David Drive, Broad Hill Drive from King James, across King Charles to the break in the sidewalk (roughly 1525), and King Charles Drive from Broad Hill to the cul-de-sac. There are 136 homes, with most built between 1983-1987.

Visit this link for a visual of the phases: <http://brookparkmanor.com/plan-layout/>

### Days of Celebration

Did you know that calendars are bursting with random “National Days” that are fun to celebrate, even at home!!! Some of our favorites are shared here along with a few fun links to learn more.

Our list covers Feb 15-March 15, following our Newsletter publication dates; be on the lookout for more fun next month!

#### February

- 15-** Presidents Day
- 16-** Mardi Gras!!! Fat Tuesday! Laissez le bon temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!) Eat some red beans and rice or a king cake. [Red Beans and Rice recipe link](#)
- National Almond Day
- National Pancake Day. Here’s a recipe: [Pancake Recipe link](#)
- National Paczki Day; visit Oakmont Bakery!
- 17-** Ash Wednesday
- Random Act of Kindness Day
- 18-** National Drink Wine Day
- 20-** National Love Your Pet Day
- National Muffin Day
- 25-** Purim
- National Chili Day
- 27-** National Polar Bear Day- check them out: [Polar Bear Cam Link](#)
- National Pokemon Day

#### March

- 1-** National Peanut Butter Lovers Day
- National Pig Day
- 2-** Dr. Seuss’s Birthday!!
- Read Across America
- 5-** National Day of Unplugging; walk away from the screens!
- 6-** National Oreo Cookie Day; make sure to eat some and follow these links for how they’re made and a classic Oreo commercial. [How Oreos are made](#)
- [Oreos Commercial](#)
- 7-** National Cereal Day
- 8 -** International Women’s Day
- 9-** National Meatball Day
- 10-** National Pack Your Lunch Day
- National Ranch Dressing Day
- 12-** National Girl Scout Day
- 14-** 3.14 It’s Pi Day!!! Eat pie! But why make your own? Support a local business and buy one from a local bakery.
- 14-** National Potato Chip Day

## Resident Reflections:

### Pittsburgh Home Expo, 1983

Let's go back to 1983. It was the time of big hair, big shoulder pads and Ronald Reagan. Mauve wallpaper, shiny brass fixtures and formica cabinets were all the rage, as many Brook Park neighbors know all too well. 1983 was also the year when our own neighborhood was the subject of the Pittsburgh North Housing Expo! The homes of King David and King Charles, from Woodview to the cul-de-sac were featured at the Expo. Check out the following excerpts from the expo brochure:

*We are proud to present the 1983 Housing Expo in this prestigious new suburban community in its peaceful country setting. Beautiful model homes by some of the area's finest builders are showcased here. All utilities are underground. Easily accessible from major roadways leading to shopping malls, schools, churches, entertainment, recreation and other facilities. Brook Park III embodies enjoyment and fulfillment for those who will call this new community "home".*

*You are about to see some of the most beautiful-and most diversified homes in the Pittsburgh area, built by the city's finest builders. You'll find homes built for virtually every lifestyle and every taste. Gracious living is a built-in factor at Brook Park III.*

Yep, that's Brook Park...prestigious, gracious, country living. While we may chuckle at the wording, and some may find the descriptions over the top, we do all generally agree Brook Park is truly the BEST. But, let's get back to the marketing!

Each home had its own page complete with artist rendering, floor plan and description. Many years have passed, along with, in most cases, many owners. So, we ask, did the home live up to the original hype? In several upcoming newsletters we will feature some of these homes with current owners' reaction to expo's advertising.



#### the Intriguing Colonial

A two-story colonial that's impressive both inside and out. The spectacular two-story entry features wood parquet flooring, open staircase and skylight. This home offers modern living conveniences including a large sunken living room and formal dining room. The well planned kitchen is enhanced by spacious pantry, solid wood cabinets, breakfast area and meal planning center. An unusual floor and window treatment allows the kitchen to flow into the family room that's highlighted by a brick fireplace and access to a large deck. On the second floor, there is the master bedroom with its own walk-in closet, dressing area, vanity sink and full bath, plus three additional bedrooms, one overlooking the lovely entry. Add to this a secluded first floor den, first floor laundry center and full basement

including workshop. Fully color coordinated carpet, soft hued wall coverings and handsome wood trim throughout... so sensible and livable.

#### DIMENSION CONSTRUCTION INC.

Dimension Construction Inc. has the ability to design and the craftsmen to complete the home as it should be built. Only the finest styling and only the best construction materials would do justice to any of our homes. We take pride in our craftsmanship, combining it with the most recent construction technology to please the most discriminating buyer. Homes are constructed with care and precision using designs that incorporate a blend of beauty, charm and functional family living. We work as a team with you as a vital participant. We work with you, for you.

Come along with us on this trip down memory lane, reflecting on (maybe laughing at) the differences between expectations, fantasy and reality.

Also of note, four of these homes were given awards; Best of Show, Best Traditional, Best Contemporary, and Best Use of Space. **If anyone has information about which homes won these awards and if said homes truly live up to their hype, PLEASE SHARE!** We would love to follow up with this aspect of the home expo! You can email responses to Heather Byers at [byers\\_heather@hotmail.com](mailto:byers_heather@hotmail.com).

You will recognize the "Intriguing Colonial" as the Rodgers residence (Maura, Dan, Danny, Lucas and Adam) and will recognize the "Country Contemporary" as the Sullivan residence (Kristen, Mark, Carley and Patrick). It seems that the builders may have stretched the truth a bit with our first two homes. After looking over the description of their house, Maura said, "I realized quickly that back in the day they didn't look over the property description before printing. Although some things are right most are wrong. I would love a 4th bedroom, Den, master walk-in closet, dressing area, large pantry or work shop." Kristen Sullivan was excited to look over the designer's vision for their home. She stated, "overall it's a mostly accurate description of this house we have grown to love! Wondering where my wet bar and whirlpool tub went though..." Maybe the previous owner(s) took those luxuries with them? Mark replied, "They really over sold the master bath! No vaulted ceilings or whirlpool. I'll have to call the builder." Good luck with that Mark.

Sullivans and Rodgers, thank you for your responses. Our neighborhood is grateful to have your families in our community!



#### the Country Contemporary

An eye catcher of dramatic design and exciting dimensions. This home creates an impression and relays a message of spaciousness. The foyer is impressive, with a unique floor combination of wood and ceramic tile, and introduces a beautifully proportioned sunken living room with a cathedral ceiling. Opposite is a larger than usual dining room. In the kitchen the latest appliances have been built into a step saving work pattern every cook will appreciate. There is a remarkable amount of work and storage space with wood cabinets that define the kitchen space while not enclosing it from the adjoining casual eating area. The family room is accented by a fireplace at one end, has the convenience of a wet bar and easy access to the deck. The skylighted stairway to the second floor overlooks the living room. In the enticing large master suite the skylighted bath has a vaulted ceiling and features a ceramic tiled raised whirlpool tub. This whole house is open and well lit by large

windows and skylights by day and special effects of well placed built-in lighting at night. The imaginative design is completed by the warmth of earth tones in the floor and wall coverings set off by rich wood trim... a winning combination anytime.

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Dimension Construction Inc., is a firm of professionals with experience in the construction of custom homes. We use our expertise, and a generous portion of inspiration, to create a home that will make your plans a reality. Plans are worked and reworked to maximize spaciousness, convenience, functionality, traffic flow and eye appeal. Each home may be customized by your choice of floor coverings, countertops, kitchen cabinets, lighting and wall coverings. We welcome the opportunity of designing and building on your lots. We build with the philosophy of providing value, selection and quality in a variety of price ranges.

## TIPS FROM THE PROS



### 4 Easy Job Search and Resume Tips

By Colleen Paulson, MBA, CPRW

Yes, it is possible to find a job right now, in spite all of the current difficulties that we are facing. Even if you are comfortable in your current role, you should always be thinking of where you want to be in the next 5-10 years. Here are 4 easy ways that you can boost your chances of finding a new job:

**Use LinkedIn:** If you are thinking of changing jobs and you're not on LinkedIn, then you need to join today! LinkedIn isn't just a place to network, it is a marketing tool for job searchers. I have several clients who have been "found" by employers on LinkedIn – companies have proactively reached out to them because of the strength of their profile. Think of 5 companies that you are interested in – follow those companies so that you understand what is important to them. You can also proactively pitch someone who works for these companies to see if there are any new or upcoming openings in the pipeline.

**Quantify Everything:** A great resume and LinkedIn profile demonstrate your value clearly and through numerical results (think revenue/P&L managed, % increase in productivity, sales, % decrease in quality defects). Clients will tell me that their results can't be quantified, but EVERY job can deliver real results – How many children did you teach? How many applications did you review? How many projects did you complete? How much revenue did you manage? How did you improve operations? Those are the kinds of questions that you need to ask (and answer) when you are trying to attract the attention of future employers.

**Increasing Your Online Chances:** When you apply for a role online, your resume is typically reviewed by the company's Applicant Tracking System (ATS). You need to make sure that your resume formatting is in-line with what the ATS expects (I recommend not using graphics or any special formatting that can be difficult for the system to read). You can also "hack" the ATS by strategically placing the posting keywords in your resume to increase the likelihood of being a match. I use the Jobscan ([www.jobscan.co/](http://www.jobscan.co/)) website – it's easy to use and allows you to quickly see your gaps and what types of skills are required for the posting in an easy and objective format.

**Don't Hide Career Gaps:** A gap in your employment history, whether it's due to caregiving, illness, or layoffs, is nothing to be ashamed of. I tell my clients that any future employer that would discriminate against you for having a Covid-related job loss is not worth your time and energy, so please, be honest and up-front about your employment situation, even if it isn't what you want it to be. Clearly state on your resume and LinkedIn profile what you did during this time, listing volunteering, coursework, or other work that you completed.

Colleen Paulson, MBA, CPRW is a Brook Park resident and a Certified Professional Resume Writer/Career Coach who helps job seekers, career changers, and top executives advance in their careers. Connect with Colleen on LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com/in/colleenmpaulson/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/colleenmpaulson/)) or email her at [colleen@colleenpaulsonmba.com](mailto:colleen@colleenpaulsonmba.com)

## TIPS FROM THE PROS

### Let's Talk Real Estate:

#### Has COVID changed what homebuyers want in a new home?

With increasing numbers of people working and studying at home, walls are once again in style. In fact, we're seeing homebuyers who want more walls and less openness.

With the prediction that some workers may never return to an office environment, quiet, private spaces have become a "must have" for many homebuyers. The prospect of long-term working from home is also influencing what buyers want in a patio, yard, or outdoor living space. For sellers, their property can stand apart with just a few upgrades. Swap out screens for energy-efficient windows on a porch. Suddenly you have a whole new three-season room. Or give a cement patio a quick coat of paint to make it an attractive space for a table and chairs—perfect for working outside on sunny days.

If you're thinking of putting your home on the market, give us a call to talk about how we can help you to stage your home to best suit today's buyers. We'll even suggest minor updates, like setting up a quick but attractive workspace, that will show potential buyers that your home can meet their growing needs. Call (412) 607-5143 or visit our website: [MindyAndDarla.com](http://MindyAndDarla.com)



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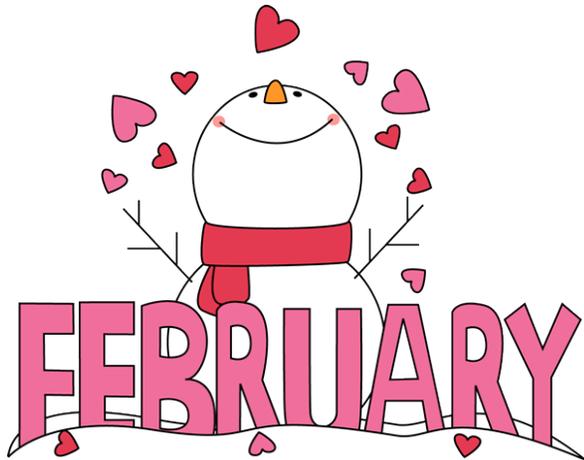
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**Kids Corner featuring Ingrid Bunger**  
 Ingrid is a resident of King James Dr and at just 8 years old is a prolific artist!



Below is a sampling of her favorites from just this past month. Featured works include felted creations, tissue paper lanterns, neon shaving cream on black paper, water color with salt resist, clay, and paint experiments. Thanks Ingrid for sharing your talents!



**Street Parking Prohibited During Snow Events**

Like it or not, winter is here! Please remember that during the winter months, both McCandless and Franklin Park have restrictions on street parking to enable snow removal.

From the McCandless website:

Severe road conditions prompt some drivers to leave their vehicles on Town streets. Vehicles parked on streets during such conditions make some operations extremely difficult and jeopardize the safety of vehicles. Vehicles must be removed as soon as possible, so that the town can conduct its snow operations effectively.

From the Franklin Park website:

# 202-13 Parking prohibited during certain hours. No person shall park a vehicle upon any Borough street between the hours of 2:00am and 6:00am, prevailing local time, and/or during snow removal times.

**To make snow removal (and all our commutes) easier, please refrain from parking on the streets this winter!**



**Current Board of Governors**

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Old garage door that needs updating? Broken Spring? Operator not working?

Increase your property value and personal comfort with a new garage door.

Call Mark Sullivan of Choice Garage Doors, your Brook Park Manor garage door specialist.

[www.choicepgh.com](http://www.choicepgh.com) | [info@choicepgh.com](mailto:info@choicepgh.com)



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