

Brook Park Journal

NOVEMBER 2021 IN THIS ISSUE

Board of Governors	4
Bonfire Returns!.....	1
Classifieds	6-8
Christmas at the Farm.....	5
Halloween Parade Recap.....	2
National Day Celebrations.....	2
Pittsburgh Winter Fun.....	3
Tips From The Pros	4



Santa Pics: Send Your Most Memorable!

The holidays are upon us and with them comes Santa Claus...and all of those wonderfully awkward Santa pictures. You know the ones. They're the ones with children screaming or standing 3 feet away from Santa, scared to be near him. We all laugh at them, and now it's time to share that laughter. We want to see YOUR Santa pictures...or any of your fabulously awkward Christmas pictures! Scan, upload, or take a picture of your Santa pictures and get them to Heather Byers at byers_heather@hotmail.com or Theresa Wilkinson at wilkinson.theresa@gmail.com. We can't wait to see them!

Phase I Block Party

Beautiful weather for the Phase I Block Party! Thanks to Chef Karen Longo, Dennis Moul, Mardy Byrnes, Sally Swegan for pulling the party together after a previous rain delay. Such nice neighbors!



Luminary Sale

The holidays are upon us and that means Brook Park's luminary sale is right around the corner. Forms will be available before Thanksgiving to purchase luminary kits. Keep your eyes open for the eblast, coming very soon! Kits include bags, sand and candles to make 10 luminaries to light Christmas Eve. These luminaries make our neighborhood beautiful on Christmas Eve, lining the streets and lighting the way for Santa. Even if you won't be home, consider asking a neighbor to set some out in front of your house. King Charles and King Albert often have near 100% participation and it creates a delightful scene. Let's light up the whole community this year so Santa is sure to stop and linger!

Bonfire Night Returns

The annual Brook Park Bonfire returned this year, now with the addition of a Movie Night on the big blow-up screen. The ground was damp but spirits were high with hot chocolate & apple cider, cookies galore, the roaring bonfire, and Charlie Brown Thanksgiving followed by the original Home Alone movie. An extra highlight was the informal girls' lumber construction and firetending team that developed, who built imaginative structures with the available wood before supplying it to the fire. Many thanks to Kathy Prigg, Eric Cottone, and Dennis Moul for putting on a great evening. And thanks to the more than 75 neighbors who came down to enjoy this relatively new neighborhood tradition!



Street Parking Prohibited During Snow Events

Winter is coming! As the last days of fall wrap up, it is a good time to remind everyone 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!



Halloween Parade Recap



October 30 may have been gray and overcast, but spirits were bright and happy for the return of the annual Brook Park Halloween Parade. More than 180 participants, raising over \$600 for NHCO, turned out that

Saturday to enjoy the NA band, costumes and time with friends and neighbors. Several longtime residents expressed their love of this tradition stating that they are present every year. Everyone was thrilled to see the return of the parade, even members of the NA band evident by the students announcing how happy they were to be performing again. A wonderful afternoon was made sweeter when it was announced Hannah Pyles is officially cancer free and the neighborhood got to ring bells to announce that triumph.

Curious how this tradition began? It was Kim Kuhn and Marty Knable who had Halloween parades in their communities growing up and wanted to recreate that tradition in Brook Park.

The parade has seen different routes in the neighborhood and a few different generations of kids and costumes. There have been balloon arches, the Pirate Parrot, firetrucks and more, but what remains constant is a strong commitment to community.

Thank you to all who came this year for the parade, both participants and spectators, and all the volunteers who made it happen, especially our organizers, Jessica Campbell, Katie Helfrich and Kathy Prigg.



November/December Days of Celebration

So many fun reasons to celebrate this fall!! With so many National Days of Celebration, every day is a new reason to party! As always, links have been provided, when possible, to help you with your celebrations. Enjoy!

November 15	Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day	November 27	Small Business Saturday
November 16	National Fast Food Day	November 28	Chanukah begins
November 17	National Butter Day National Homemade Bread Day Best when celebrated together!	November 30	National Day of Giving
November 18	Mickey Mouse Birthday! It was on this day in 1928 when Mickey appeared in Steamboat Willie. Love Mickey? Check out several of his new shorts here .	December 1	Rosa Parks Day. Read her story here .
November 19	National Play Monopoly Day	December 4	National Sock Day
November 21	National Gingerbread Cookie Day. If you'd like to give these delightfully spiced cookies a go, you can find a recipe here .	December 5	International Ninja Day
November 23	National Espresso Day	December 6	St. Nicholas Day. Read his story here .
November 25	THANKSGIVING! Celebrate by listening to Adam Sandler's Thanksgiving song here .	December 8	National Brownie Day
November 26	Black Friday National Buy Nothing Day	December 9	Christmas Card Day
		December 10	Nobel Prize Day
		December 12	National Poinsettia Day Gingerbread House Day. Check out the gingerbread houses featured in Pittsburgh's annual contest this year or make your own!
		December 13	National Cocoa Day

Pittsburgh Winter Fun



As the leaves fall and the trees become bare, we are reminded that winter will be here soon. While that brings groans from some, others embrace the change and look forward to winter activities. We are fortunate to live in an area where winter activities are plentiful. This winter, why not make a commitment to get out, get some sun and /or fresh air and exercise? You'll be doing yourself a favor! Sunshine give you vitamin D and exercise releases endorphins. Both help your immune system and boost your mood. Plus, many facilities are part of the park system, so costs are low, if not free.

Ice Skating

UPMC Rink at PPG Place

This rink surrounds the tree at PPG Place and is a popular spot all holiday season, but it remains all winter long. Again this year, your reservations can be made ahead of time, so no standing in long lines! Check out this year's ticketing and operating procedures [here](#).

North Park

This large rink is conveniently located on Pierce Mill Road. The \$5 skate fee (plus skate rental) can't be beat! The rink is scheduled to open mid-November.

South Park

This is a NHL size rink and include a short skate trail. Like North Park, the fees are low and is scheduled to open mid-November.

RMU (Robert Morris University)

If you would rather be inside, this rink is located a short drive away. Rates are low (\$7 plus \$3 skate rental) and open skate times are plentiful. Check out their website [here](#).

Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding

People often think of hauling it up to the Laurel highlands for these activities, but what if you're not up for an all day adventure? At only 40 minutes away and priced reasonably, **Boyce Park** is a great local alternative. Whether you have never skied or snowboarded before or you are a seasoned winter athlete, Boyce has you covered. There are runs for all levels and rentals are available. A nice plus is ski lessons are also available. The slopes are scheduled to open mid-December. Check out their website [here](#).

Snow Tubing

If Clover Hill Golf Course isn't enough, try the tubing at **Boyce Park**. Located in the same area as downhill skiing, the tubing hill is full of thrills. Snow tubing is also scheduled to open in mid-December and you can follow the link above to their website.

Cross Country Skiing

All nine of Allegheny County Parks offer cross country skiing trails. Plus, North and South Parks golf courses allow cross country skiing once snow falls. The nine country parks are Boyce Park, Deer Lakes, Harrison Hills, Hartwood Acres, North Park, Round Hill Park, Settlers Cabin, South Park, White Oak. You can access maps [here](#) or download the Allegheny County Park app.

Should we be worried about a housing bubble?

We all recall the chaos that ensued after the housing bubble burst in 2008. Could there be a repeat? The good news is, we don't believe that this will happen. The 2008 burst was caused by mortgages that were granted to people who could not afford them in the long term.

That's a very different scenario from what is going on now. Today's housing market is based on demand. The lack of inventory is raising prices. Let's break it down further. In 2007, before the bubble burst, there were 4 million properties listed, very little new construction, and low equity in homes. Fast forward to 2021. There are only 1.2 million listings, plenty of new construction, and the highest equity levels in over 30 years.

So right now, we're looking at a housing shortage of 2.8 million homes, compared to 2007. It's easy to see why housing prices are up—it's simply the economics of supply and demand.

If your winter plans include selling your home, give me a call! I live in Brook Park and am experienced working in our area.

Darla Carcia
mindyanddarla@piattsir.com

Your friends in real estate
THE MINDY + DARLA TEAM



Top producing REALTORS® who care!
Contact us for a free home valuation!

Visit our website and follow us on social media for helpful home tips!   

412.726.5958 (M) 724.765.7000 (O)
mindyanddarla@piattsir.com
mindyanddarla.com

Piatt | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Current Board of Governors			
President/Treasurer:	Vice President:	Secretary:	Membership:
Dennis Moul d-bpm@hq99.net (412) 366-0168	Lara Schob theschobs8031@gmail.com (412) 378-0446	Sally Swegan sallyswegan@gmail.com 412-760-9216	Jessica Deible jessdeible@aol.com (412) 367-7356
Members of the Board:			
Nate Bopp nate.bopp@gmail.com (412) 585-1701	Heather Byers byers_heather@hotmail.com (412) 364-1054	Flavio Chamis ftchamis@aol.com (412) 635-0694	Jim Hudson hudson.je@comcast.net (412) 364-3605
Ian Lindsay ilindsay@msn.com (412) 369-4574	John McFadden john.mcfadden.jm@gmail.com (412) 779-7325	Colleen Paulson cpaulsons@verizon.net (412) 367-1196	Brian Dahm BrianDahm@gmail.com (412)983-4095
	<i>Alternate: David Scott</i> scottdds@comcast.net (412) 369-5371	<i>Alternate: Diane Salvatora</i> (412) 366-9106	
Women's/Social Club Coordinators:		Welcome:	
Heather Byers byers_heather@hotmail.com (412) 364-1054	Jessica Deible jessdeible@aol.com (412) 367-7356	Mardy Byrnes mardybyrnes@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor:		Field Club Rep:	
Theresa Wilkinson wilkinson.theresa@gmail.com (617) 905-7325 & Co-Editor Heather Byers (see above)		***OPEN***	



THE MINDY + DARLA TEAM OF
PIATT SOTHEBY'S
INTERNATIONAL REALTY INVITES
YOU TO JOIN US FOR

CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM!

Skip the lines at the mall and have some holly jolly
holiday fun at the farm.

DECEMBER 5, 2021
1 PM - 3PM
920 BLACKBURN RD.
SEWICKLEY, PA 15143

Admission is completely free, so bring the family for
a professional photo with Santa and his festive pony!
Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided. Photos
are compliments of Brent Madison Photography.

All attendees must RSVP by 12/1 for a timeslot.

MindyandDarla@piattsir.com

412.607.5143



CLASSIFIEDS

I love Brook Park

\$250 will be donated to the Brook Park Swim Club for every Brook Park/Field Club home listed and sold with me.

Your Brook Park Realtor®



DARLA CARCIA

412.607.5143 (M) 724.765.7000 (O)
mindyanddarla@piattsir.com

Piatt | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

mindy + darla
YOUR FRIENDS IN REAL ESTATE



100 FOWLER ROAD, SUITE 301 WEXFORD, PA 15086
EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.

mindyanddarla.com

Professional Tutoring

Sally Swegan
412-760-9216
974 Broadmeadow Dr.
Elementary Education, Pre-K through 6th grade
Any subject
Learning Disabilities
ESL



Sales
Service
Installation
Free Estimates

(412)420-0033

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 | info@choicepgh.com

THE PAINTED NEST



Cara Cortazzo
412-759-3506

Jessica Deible
724-996-8363

paintednest1@gmail.com

- Paint color consultations
- Furniture editing and rearranging
- Decluttering
- Storage solutions
- Personal decor shopping
- Staging
- Furniture painting
- Renovation planning and management

CLEAN FILL WANTED

Joe and Toni Ambrosino
1636 King James, 412-366-2873

CLASSIFIEDS

Colleen Paulson, MBA, CPRW

EXECUTIVE AND PROFESSIONAL RESUMES

Would you like your resume to stand out from the pack? I am a Certified Professional Resume Writer (CPRW) and have written / reviewed 1500+ resumes over the past 10 years. I'd love to help you reach your career goals!

Email: colleen@colleenpaulsonmba.com
 Website: www.colleenpaulsonmba.com
 LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/colleenpaulson/>

Sandy Shuster

CRAFTS	SEWING
seasonal personalized everyday living	alterations dress making home furnishings

Home: 412-366-0455 **Cell:** 412-225-4705

Services all year round.

Top Notch Home Improvements

Tom Weidinger (Owner)

t_weidinger@msn.com
 412-630-0288
 Town of McCandless

Roofing, Siding, Windows, Doors, Decks, Game rooms, Kitchens, Additions; all customized to your needs!

PA045738

THE MEGAN E. CONNELLY STUDIO OF PIANO

837 Washington Drive
 Pittsburgh, PA 15229
 412-398-4687
meganconnelly@verizon.net

- 15 years professional experience
- Bachelor of Piano Performance
- Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy

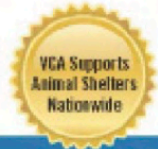
Now enrolling ages 5 - Adult

Do you have difficulty getting your pets to the veterinarian?
 Does your pet get car sick?

HOUSE CALLS EVERY WEDNESDAY

We bring our services to you!

- Examinations
- Vaccinations
- Other minor health issues
- Nails, ears, & anal glands
- Blood draws
- Humane, compassionate at home euthanasia.



Mention this ad & receive 10% off the trip fee. Call us today to find out more!

**VCA NORTHVIEW ANIMAL HOSPITAL
 SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTER**
 223 Siebert Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 412-364-5353



Anne Marie Herm

Ambiance Video Productions

contact@ambiancevideography.com
www.ambiancevideography.com
 412-761-9960

- Specializing in Live Events Including:
- Weddings/Dress Rehearsals
 - Anniversary Parties
 - Corporate Events
 - Photo Montages
 - Birthday Parties
 - Sporting Events
 - Dance Recitals
 - Plays
 - VHS to DVD Transfers

8614 Broad Hill Drive
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Commercial/Residential
Free Estimates
Fully Insured

**NIGGEL
LAWN CARE LLC**

1540 King James Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237
www.niggellawn.com

Ph.: (412) 366-7956
Cell: (412) 855-0622
Fax: (412) 366-2521

N.C.M.A. Certified
Segmented Retaining
Wall Installers
PA014223

Jim Niggel
President
Jim@niggellawn.com

Emmanuel Capital Management, LLC
Fee-Only, Registered Investment Advisor

Tom Franks, CFA
President
1556 King James Drive
412-223-2410
www.EmmanuelCapital.com

- Investment Management
- 401k Rollovers
- Retirement Planning
- Outstanding Expertise
- Experience & Integrity
- Free Consult

**HOUSE SITTING
PET SITTING
PLANT WATERING
ODD JOBS**

CONTACT:
email: dan.longo11@yahoo.com
Phone: 412-801-9667

Sterling and Strings
Classical music for your special occasion

Featuring:

- Flute and cello
- Trios, quartets
- Any combination of your favorite instruments


Melissa Lessure, flutist
1621 King James Drive
Phone: 412-635-0131

Check out our You Tube videos at
www.sterlingandstrings.com

H M J
Landscape and Garden Center
2130 Reis Run Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237
We Deliver

Office: (412) 837-1666
Cell: (412) 855-0622
Fax: (412) 837-2731
Niggellawn.com@comcast.net

Jim Niggel
President
PA 014223



TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR OWN SAFETY AND DEFENSE

**LIVE ALONE? TRAVEL? EVER FEEL INTIMIDATED BY STRANGERS?
HAVE A DAUGHTER AT COLLEGE? ARE YOU PROTECTED?**

Unfortunately, our world is an unsafe place. DAMSEL IN DEFENSE is a company who cares about protecting women and empowering them to take care of their own defense. Once you see the common sense products Damsel In Defense has to offer, you'll gain a sense of confidence and want everyone you know to do the same. Protect yourself and your loved ones with these affordable items (pepper spray, stun guns, self-defense items), as well as safety items for your home and automobiles. Visit my website at <http://www.mydamselpro.net/DAMSELPGH/> and view the products; and follow me on my Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DefenseInPittsburgh>. Great gifts for your friends, loved ones and that "hard to buy for" person in your life. Host a party in your home, church, community center, etc. and earn amazing perks or join my team in helping others.

THERESA ZAMAGIAS
412-287-4854
damselcpg@gmail.com