

Brook Park Journal

NOVEMBER 2021 IN THIS ISSUE

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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
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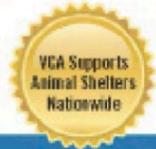
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