

Brook Park Journal

DECEMBER 2021 IN THIS ISSUE

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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!



Year in Review, 2021

With 2021 drawing to an end, let's take a look back and remember the highlights of the past year in our neighborhood. Even with the unique challenges of 2021, our community has seen many triumphs.

It began with a reorganization of Brook Park/Field Club Light Up Night on New Year's Eve. Santa may have washed out our attempts to light up the streets Christmas Eve, but with a quick neighborhood effort, we were able to shine through the dark and welcome 2021 with beautiful luminaries.

Spring brought a wonderful Easter egg hunt, with more participants than we have seen in a number of years! Everyone had a great time. There was also a second (maybe annual) scavenger hunt that got many of us out walking and visiting. Let's not forget the neighborhood garage sale that helped many of us clean out our homes!

Spring turned to summer and with the hotter temperatures, attention turned to the pool. The pool hosted many events, swim lessons, provided employment for many neighborhood teens and was a nice place to gather and visit with friends, no matter your age. Thank you to all who supported the pool in any way!

Summer faded into fall. Kids went back to school...HURRAY! Our neighborhood saw the return of social groups. They may look a bit different for a while, but they're back nonetheless. The neighborhood also saw the return of the annual Halloween parade with participants of all ages, and more participants than we

have seen in a number of years. We were even able to have a neighborhood bonfire and movie before the snow began to fly (almost).

Through all these months, we've had food trucks, providing our neighborhood with a convenient dinner and chance to visit. There have been block parties and graduation parties. We've watched dog walkers and friends having walk and talks. In this last month of the year, we look forward to lighting up Christmas Eve with luminaries.

As we say good-bye, or maybe good riddance, to 2021, we would like to thank all of you for being a part of this community! You are the reason why our community continues to be a nice place to live. Without you none of this would be possible. Thank you to all who helped organize or participated or supported our community in any way. We truly mean it when we say YOU are an important part of our community! Brook Park and Field Club would not look the same without you.

Snow Creation Challenge

Here in Western PA, winter often means snow and snow means snow creations. If the white stuff begins to fly and people in your home make snow creations...snow people, snow animals, igloos, other sculptures...we want to see them. Snap a pic and send the image to wilkinson.theresa@gmail.com. We can't wait to see your creativity!



Cocktail of the Month

I'd like to share with the Brook Park newsletter readers some cocktail recipes that you can make at home. This month's recipe is the Swig for Santa. All these ingredients can be found at your local Wine & Spirits and/or grocery store. I hope you enjoy!

Swig for Santa

- 1oz Black Velvet Toasted Caramel
- 1oz amaretto
- 1oz fresh lemon juice
- 1oz apple cider
- Shake with ice, strain into new ice, serve on the rocks,
- garnish with cinnamon stick



I have been a Brook Park resident since 2010, and an amateur mixologist for over 15 years. I regularly post free original cocktail recipes to Twitter @NULLphoenix. If you have questions or comments about cocktails, or would like help with anything cocktail-related, please reach out: phoenix@null.net



December 15- January 15 Days of Celebration

So many fun reasons to celebrate this holiday season. 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!

December 15	National Cupcake Day	December 30	Bacon Day
December 16	National Chocolate Covered-Anything Day	December 31	National Champagne Day New Year's Eve (GOODBYE 2021)
December 17	Wright Brothers Day	January 1	New Year's Day
December 18	National Answer the Phone Like Buddy the Elf Day	January 2	National Science Fiction Day
December 19	National Hard Candy Day	January 3	National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day
December 20	Go Caroling Day	January 5	National Whipped Cream Day
December 21	Winter Solstice, AKA the shortest day of the year. After today, the daytime begins getting longer!	January 6	National Cuddle Up Day
December 23	National Pfeffernusse Day. What is THAT? It's a German spice cookie...fun to say and to eat! Check it out here .	January 8	National Bubble Bath Day
December 24	National Eggnog Day	January 9	National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
December 25	Merry Christmas!	January 10	National Clean Off Your Desk Day
December 26	Boxing Day. It began as a day to give the poor, servants and tradespeople gifts, but has evolved over the years. It began in the UK, and is now celebrated there, as well as other countries in the commonwealth (of UK, not PA-haha). Check out more here .	January 11	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
December 28	National Card Playing Day. Here's a list of card games and rules for seemingly every card game ever created! Try something new with people you enjoy tonight!	January 12	National Pharmacist Day
		January 13	National Rubber Ducky Day. Celebrate with the original, the best, Earnie singing Rubber Ducky! Watch it here .
		January 14	National Dress Up Your Pet Day

Elf

The Musical

Ari performing as the Macy's store manager.

Neighbors Ari Stuart, Ellie Kutlenios, and Bethany Kutlenios have been busy acting, singing, and dancing for *Elf, the Musical*. These behind the scene photos show how Wexford Acting Studio is in rehearsal using an untraditional blue screen, allowing for plenty of Christmas greens and festive backdrops.

Look for Ari as the Macy's store manager and shopper. Ellie and Bethany can be spotted as flyer girls, Santa elves, skaters, and Macy's customers.

See it all come to life December 17-23!



Ellie, the yellow elf, singing in the finale.



Bethany passing out flyers in the festive streets of NYC.

It is a wonderful show for the entire family! So, grab your hot cocoa and popcorn, and enjoy the show in the comfort of your own home!



Go to WexfordActingStudio.com to link to tickets for scheduled live-stream times.
DECEMBER 17-23

Hilarious Holiday Photos

Thanks to all these neighbors (and former neighbors) for sending in hilarious holiday pics.
We hope you get a good ho-ho-holiday chuckle!!



Natalie Dahm, 2017



Bennett Worthy, 2021 (formerly of King David)



Kiera & Theo Wilkinson, 2006



Mr Fluffypants Quint, 2015



Carly & Patrick Sullivan, 2014



Meet Pittsburgh from “Uncovering PA”

This issue’s “Meet Pittsburgh” article is a partial reprint of an article found on Uncovering PA. This blog is a great resource for exploring not only our area, but anywhere in Pennsylvania. Jim, the blogger, visits both classic, well known sites, as well as those off the beaten path. He has featured hiking trails, historic sites, big cities and everything in between. It is a great resource to learn the area, or, for lifelong residents, to try something new. You can find the blog at www.uncoveringpa.com.

The following article is a fun, rapid fire of Pittsburgh trivia. Some are well known facts, others, not so much. Some are interesting tidbits, others, like the bit about Bicycle Heaven, may strike an interest in visiting a new place. Here’s to learning something new!

- Pittsburgh is known as the “City of Bridges” because it has 446 bridges which is more than Venice, Italy, or any other city in the world.
- The emoticon was invented in Pittsburgh in 1980 by Carnegie Mellon University computer scientist Scott Fahlman
- There are more than 700 sets of [public stairs](#) within the city limits of Pittsburgh. They are maintained by an Inspector of Steps.
- The world’s first T-rex skeleton is on display at the [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#).
- Pittsburgh has more days of rain and snow than Seattle, Washington.
- In 1905, Pittsburgh became home to the first Nickelodeon, or modern movie theater.
- While St. Louis is known as the starting point of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the explorers actually first met up in Pittsburgh before heading west on the Ohio River.
- Pittsburgh’s [St. Anthony’s Chapel](#) is home to more Catholic relics than anywhere else in the world except for the Vatican.
- Pittsburgh’s Beechview neighborhood is home to the steepest street in the United States (and possibly the world): Canton Avenue. It is as steep as 37 degrees.
- The Big Mac was invented in the Pittsburgh suburbs by Jim Delligatti, a local McDonald’s franchisee. It was first sold in 1967, and there is even a [Big Mac Museum](#) that you can visit.
- The oldest-known site of human habitation in North America is located just south of Pittsburgh at [Meadowcroft Rockshelter](#).
- In 1903, the first World Series was held between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Boston Americans. Boston won the series five games to three.
- In 1920, 80% of the glass made in the United States came from Pittsburgh.
- The University of Pittsburgh’s [Cathedral of Learning](#) is the second tallest university building in the world.
- In 1808, Allegheny County produced enough whiskey each year to give every American man, woman, and child half a barrel of whiskey.
- Baseball Hall of Famers Stan Musial and Ken Griffey, Jr. were both born on November 21 in the small town of [Donora, PA](#) (though 49 years apart).
- In May 1918, the country of Czechoslovakia was created in Pittsburgh when the Czechs and the Slovaks signed the Pittsburgh Agreement.
- Roslyn Place in Pittsburgh’s Shadyside neighborhood is the [last wooden street remaining in Pennsylvania](#). The road was constructed in 1914 of 26,000 wooden blocks.
- [Bicycle Heaven](#) in Pittsburgh is the world’s largest bike museum (and even better, [it’s free](#)).
- The country’s first gas station was opened in 1913 at Baum Boulevard and St. Clair Street in East Liberty.
- Babe Ruth hit the last three home runs of his career at Pittsburgh’s Forbes Field
- Because there weren’t enough players during the 1943-1944 season, the Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles combined for one season to play as the [Steagles](#).
- The Pittsburgh suburbs were home to many great NFL quarterbacks including Joe Montana, Dan Marino, Joe Namath, Johnny Unitas, and Jim Kelly.
- The [Andy Warhol Museum](#) is the largest single-artist museum in North America.



TIPS FROM THE PROS: REAL ESTATE

Home Warranties Explained

You’ve seen it prominently displayed on real estate signs—“home warranty included.” It’s promoted as a major perk for buyers, but is it really? For sellers, a home warranty can add a level of reassurance for potential purchasers, making the home more appealing. It also can serve as a safety net that allows a buyer to waive some inspection related repairs because they’re covered by the warranty.

Home warranties work well for covering specific items like appliances, HVAC systems, and even water heaters. But more general problems may not end up being covered. We recommend home warranties for buyers seeking additional protection and sellers who want additional coverage while their house is on the market. Basic warranty packages begin at \$500.

Always learn what the warranty covers—and perhaps more importantly, what it doesn’t cover. If you’re looking for a low-cost option that gives an additional level of protection, a home warranty could be right for you.

If you have more questions about home warranties, give me a call! I live in Brook Park and am experienced working in our area.

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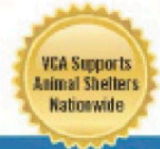
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