



District 4: Office of Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak March 2011

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 a question that you'd like to see addressed in an upcoming newsletter?

Contact our new Constituent Services Manager, Ashleigh Deemer:

ashleigh.deemer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or 412-255-2131

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District 4 News

IGA is On Its Way in Beechview ! Find out more...

There will be a public meeting on Wednesday April 6 at 7pm at the new IGA (old Foodland) (1616 Broadway Ave) to update residents on the progress of the renovation and store opening. We hear the store is going to be fantastic- a fresh in-store bakery, fresh cut meat and seafood, fresh produce, bulk foods, ethnic foods, and even delivery service! Come to the meeting for a Grand Opening date and other important information.

Public Transit Cuts Scheduled for March 27, 2011 (repeat...because it's important!)

This month, District 4 will unfortunately sustain 16 public transit route cuts. In November, Councilwoman Rudiak sponsored a Will of Council that made the case for full funding of the Port Authority, and was communicated to the state legislature, and in February, the Councilwoman spoke at a downtown rally in support of full public transit funding, which is *vital* to keeping our neighborhoods stable and vibrant.

Please call, write, and submit webforms with your comments to support public transit! Direct your comments to the Port Authority Authority of Allegheny County here: 412-442-2000, or online at <http://www.portauthority.org/PAAC/CompanyInfo/ContactInformation/Comments/abid/167/Default.aspx> as well as our County Executive [insert web site info] and State Governor [insert website/info]

41D Brookline: Cut South Busway leg on weekdays and Saturdays. Sunday service eliminated.

42 Mt Lebanon-Oakland: Eliminated.

44 Knoxville: Service reduced weekdays. No change Saturdays or Sundays.

48 Arlington: Service reduced weekdays and Saturdays. No change Sundays.

51 Carrick: No change Weekdays. Service reduced Saturdays. No change Sundays.

53C Carrick Express: Weekday service increased.

54C N. Side-Oakland-S. Side: No change weekdays. Service increased Saturdays. Service reduced Sundays.

Y1 Large Flyer: No change weekdays.

Y45 Baldwin Manor Flyer: Trip time changes weekdays.

Y46 Elizabeth Flyer: Service reduced weekdays and Saturdays. No change Sundays.

Y47 Curry Flyer: Trip time changes weekdays. No change Saturdays. Eliminated Sundays.

Y49 Prospect Park Flyer: Trip time changes weekdays. No change Saturdays or Sundays.

Blue Line – South Hills Village: Service reduced weekdays. Service eliminated Saturdays and Sundays.

Brown Line – Allentown: Eliminated weekdays.

Red Line – Overbrook Junction: Service reduced weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

You can read more about the service cuts here:

<http://www.portauthority.org/PAAC/CompanyInfo/Financials/FundingCrisis/tabid/538/Default.aspx>

And an article in the Post-Gazette about the cuts here:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11050/1126586-147.stm>

There has also been a lot of confusion about the drink tax and its effect on Port Authority funding – you can read clarification about the issue here:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10336/1107572-53.stm#ixzz16y2Me5vy>

The Big Carrick Clean-Up- April 9th!

On April 9, the offices of Councilwoman Rudiak and Councilman Bruce Kraus will team up to tackle one of Carrick's biggest problems—illegal dumping. A regional environmental survey showed that Carrick has one of the highest rates of illegal dumping in the city! Volunteers will descend on almost a dozen locations across Carrick to clean out literally TONS of trash, construction, and auto debris that has been illegally dumped in woods, down hillsides, and in alley ways. In addition to being unsightly & embarrassing to visitors and residents alike, many materials contain chemicals that are poisoning our waterways. The clean up will start at 9:30 a.m. and go until 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. If you would like to volunteer, contact John Fournier, chief of staff to the Councilwoman, at 412-255-2131.

Please, if you are witnessing an act of illegal dumping in our parks or public spaces, please call 911 immediately so offenders are caught in the act, and can be issued a citation!

New Trees in Beechview

Congratulations to Beechview residents and the folks at Pretty Up Beechview for their successful application to the Tree Vitalize Program! Come springtime, the following sites will receive brand new trees:

- 1500 block of Fallowfield- 3 Hornbeams

- 1500 block of Beechview Ave- 1 Flowering Crabapple
- 1700, 2100 and 2200 blocks of Broadway- 8 trees, including White Oaks, Dogwood, and Flowering Crabapple.
- Memorial Site: 5 new trees!

Turns out, it doesn't end with planting. Taking good care of trees in the first 2 years is really important to their long-term health and vibrancy! If you want to help out, you can become a Tree Tender, through TreePittsburgh.org. For more information, go to <http://www.treepittsburgh.org>

Envelopes of Life

For the past few weeks, Councilwoman Rudiak has been visiting senior centers and highrises all over District 4, spreading the word about Envelopes of Life. Never heard of it? The Envelope, sponsored by our Pittsburgh EMS, contains a form that tells medics everything they need to know about your medications, conditions, doctors and more. Along with the envelope, the Councilwoman has been handing out stickers for the front door that tell medics to look for it, and a magnet to keep your envelope on your refrigerator, in plain sight. Says Councilwoman Rudiak, *"In those moments when you may be in an emergency, every single second counts and when a medic or other first responder is searching around in your purse or in the vicinity for any medications that might be causing a problem, that is vital time that is lost."*

Get yours today! Contact Councilwoman Rudiak's office (412-255-2131) or the Emergency Medical Services Headquarters (412-622-6930.) You can also [download one of the forms](#) and make your own envelope.

You can read more about the Envelopes of Life here:

<http://wduqnews.blogspot.com/2011/03/envelopes-of-life-distributed.html>

Message from Police Zone 6: Please Lock Your Car Doors!

The most recent Police Zone 6 Community Crime Update (2/-2/28) from Beechview and Brookline showed 13 "theft from car" crimes, where items were stolen from inside of parked cars. **The most striking thing about some of these reports, including all 5 in Brookline, is that the car doors were left unlocked by the owners.** Please everyone, remember to lock your car doors when you park!

New Benches- A Place In Carrick?

The Hilltop Alliance recently received some colorful new benches from a team of Americorps Volunteers. The Alliance is hoping to install these benches in Carrick, but they need location suggestions, first! If you know a place that needs a good

bench, contact Jason Kottler at the Hilltop Alliance Vacant Lot Team:
dreamydreary@gmail.com

It's Your Government

YOUR City Council Meetings: Get to know them!

Did you know that City Council meetings are open to the public? Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00 am, Council gets together to address the latest issues facing the city (think budget issues, protecting public health or even agriculture or art). They keep the city moving and improving by creating and debating legislation that not only gets the day-to-day stuff done, but changes city City Code and City conduct.

You can participate in City Council by keeping tabs on agenda topics and telling us which issues you care about. If you can't make to the meetings Downtown, you can even watch them LIVE online! Stay up-to-date by going to the *new*, super user-friendly Legislative Information Center:

<http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/lic/>

As always, if you have questions or comments about any issue on the Council agenda, feel free to call our office: 412-255-2131.

WHAT IS the Home Rule Charter?

It rings a bell, right? It should, because the Home Rule Charter is Pittsburgh's constitution! Passed in 1974, it outlines the 3 main branches of government: the Executive (Mayor's Office), the Legislative (City Council! That's us!), and the Fiscal (City Controller). More than that, the Home Rule also lays out the rules for city elections, and public participation. It's what says that all Council meetings must be open to the public! As Martha Stewart might say, that's a *good thing*.

You can find the full text of the Home Rule Charter on the City's Website, here:

http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/city_clerk/assets/Home-Rule-12-7-00.pdf

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

Tax Preparation Assistance

Easy, IRS-certified FREE tax preparation is available from United Way, at six convenient locations in Allegheny County. This service is available for families earning up to 40,000/year and individuals earning up to \$20,000/year. Learn more by calling 412-255-1155 or visit <http://www.pghfreetaxes.org>

Need a Job? Become a Volunteer Coordinator!

A+ Schools is looking for Volunteer Coordinators for their Voter Education Campaign! The Volunteer Coordinator would recruit and oversee a group of 10-15 volunteers, who would canvass the neighborhood, pass out information, and encourage people to vote in their school board elections. The successful applicant would also coordinate a candidate forum before the primary elections in May. Compensation is \$15/hour with a maximum of \$2,000. To apply, contact Rebekah Jenkins at A+ Schools: rjenkins@aplusschools.org or 412-697-1298 x 105.

Coming Up!

March 19: Spring Fling in Brookline

Stop by the District Magistrate's office on Saturday, March 19th, 11AM-2PM for coffee, cookies, and information about the South Pittsburgh Development Corporation. As a thank you, all attendees will receive a FREE packet of flower seeds to spread around and make Brookline beautiful!

April 2: Concord and Roosevelt Elementary School Basketball

If you love basketball and supporting your schools, check out the Concord and Roosevelt Elementary School Faculty and Student exhibition basketball games on Saturday, April 2 at 9 a.m! Boys and girls as well as faculty from each school will play against each other for the coveted championship trophy. The door charge is only \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. What an affordable and fun activity for the family! Thank you to Concord custodian Steve for starting and organizing this great event and creating lasting memories for our children. All proceeds go toward something fun for the kids, like a pizza party!

April 12: Hilltop Block Watch Gathering

Are you concerned about crime in any of the Hilltop neighborhoods? This event is for you. On Tuesday, April 12, the Hilltop Alliance Public Safety Task Force is hosting an informative workshop for current block watches, and citizens interested in getting involved. The event will be held at the Hilltop Alliance offices (126 Brownsville Rd.) at 6:30 PM. If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Chuck Fallert at 412-956-4386.

April 23: Tree Tending in Carrick

Tree Tending in Carrick! Save the date: Saturday, April 23rd 10am-12pm
Do you like trees? We are so excited that the first Tree Care day in Carrick for 2011 is scheduled! All of the trees along Brownsville Road are maintained by volunteers. Anyone can learn to take care of them, and they add character and value to the neighborhood! If you are a certified tree tender, or will be by April 23, come on out to weed and mulch the trees to help them get established and develop strong healthy root systems. All are welcome at Tree Care days and nights! The meeting location will be announced closer to event. If you have any questions, or would like to receive more information, please contact:
sallyjoe@treepittsburgh.org

Upcoming Community and Public Safety Meetings

Are you concerned about safety in your neighborhood? Do you want to do something to make your area a better place to live? Please read the below information to learn more about what's going on in your neighborhood.

Bon Air, Carrick, Overbrook and Mt. Washington

Police Zone 3 covers the Bon Air, Carrick, Overbrook and Mt. Washington neighborhoods in District 4.

Zone 3 holds public safety meetings every third (3rd) Wednesday. This is a great opportunity to meet and discuss your concerns with Acting Zone 3 Commander Sloan and Community Liaison Officer Luffey.

- **Zone 3 Public Safety Meeting**, third (3rd) Wednesdays
Next meeting: **Wednesday, April 20, 6:00 pm**, Stewart Ave Lutheran Church, 2810 Brownsville Rd, by Burger King in Carrick (*Zone 3 meetings will be hosted in different neighborhoods this year*)
- **Carrick Community Council**, quarterly
Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 11, 2011, 7:00 pm**, Concord Elementary School, 2350 Brownsville Rd <http://www.carrickpa.com/>, carrickpa@googlegroups.com
- **Overbrook Community Council**, fourth (4th) Tuesdays
Next meeting: **Tuesday, March 22 7:00 to 9:00 pm**, Fairhaven Church near Accamando Center (Rt 51 and aytide)
<http://groups.google.com/group/occ-pittsburgh-pa>, occ-pittsburgh-pa@googlegroups.com

Beechview and Brookline

Police Zone 6 covers the Beechview and Brookline neighborhoods in District 4.

Police Zone 6

Commander Schubert and Community Liaison Officer Stevwing go to the community meetings in their Zone.

- **Beechview Area Concerned Citizens and Beechview Blockwatch**, first (1st) Thursdays
Next meeting: **Thursday, April 7, 7:00 pm**, Beechview United Presbyterian Church, 1621 Broadway Avenue
<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Beechview/home>
<http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov/WatchGroupDetail.aspx?groupID=420>

NEW! Community Leaders United for Beechview has a NEW website:
<http://www.beechview.org>.

- **Brookline Blockwatch**, second (2nd) Tuesdays
Next meeting: **Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 pm**, District Justice Jim Motznik's Office, 736 Brookline Blvd
<http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov/WatchGroupDetail.aspx?groupID=423>
- **Brookline Area Community Council**, fourth (4th) Mondays
Next meeting: **Monday, March 28, 7:00 pm**, St. Mark's, 933 Brookline Boulevard
<http://www.brooklineconnection.com/history/Orgs/CCouncil.html>
- **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation**, monthly on the third (3rd) Monday
Next meeting: **Monday, April 18, 7:00 pm**, Brookline United Presbyterian Church, 1036 Brookline Blvd
<http://www.brookline-pgh.org/>

To subscribe or unsubscribe from Councilwoman Rudiak's District 4 updates, please notify Nicole Kubiczki at nicole.kubiczki@city.pittsburgh.pa.us and we will add or remove you or your organization from our newsletter distribution list. To view back issues, please visit:

http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/district4/html/district_4_newsletters.html.