

## From the Office of Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak

“Snow flurries began to fall and they swirled around people's legs like house cats. It was magical, this snow globe world.”

— [Sarah Addison Allen](#), *The Sugar Queen*

Click [HERE](#) to view as a PDF

### **I Am Working to Make Pittsburgh a Better Place, Every Day...**

-Started the year off right by introducing legislation to give city employees six weeks of paid parental leave upon the birth, adoption, or fostering of a new child. An informational post agenda on 1/27 revealed many reasons why this is a good policy which values employees, their families, promotes retention, and would have almost no budgetary impact. You can read my extended remarks on the issue here:

<http://pittsburghpa.gov/district4/article.htm?id=4013> The legislation passed with a 9-0 vote of preliminary approval this week!

- Attended a legislative reception held by Mayor Bill Peduto and his team at the Roberto Clemente Museum and talked with local state representatives and senators about our economic development priorities in South Pittsburgh, and how to better collectively lobby for these projects at the state level.

-NAIOP Pittsburgh is a trade organization of Pittsburgh's top commercial developers and I attended a breakfast hosted by the group to connect with more opportunities for expanded business development in South Pittsburgh; PNC economist Gus Faucher presented an upbeat economic outlook for the region, which bodes well for our corridor development efforts

-Organized a meeting of stakeholders from the foundation community, along with our Bureau of Neighborhood Empowerment, and members of the Women's Caucus of City Council to discuss and coordinate our efforts to improve the quality, affordability, and availability of child care in Pittsburgh. This issue is so important- see more information in an article below!

-We have received many questions about the future of Hillcrest Senior Residence highrise to be built on the vacant Giant Eagle site in Carrick. A few weeks ago I hosted an informational meeting about the development. The project is receiving full support from the mayor's office this year, and we hope to receive full support from the state finance agency this year as well. You can see the full presentation including the facade renderings and blue prints here: [http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/district4/2015-01-13\\_Hillcrest - Carrick presentation.pdf](http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/district4/2015-01-13_Hillcrest_-_Carrick_presentation.pdf)

-Joined many of my colleagues and Pennsylvania residents to celebrate the inauguration of Governor Wolf in Harrisburg, PA. We look forward to having a solid and productive relationship with the Governor to help rebuild our business districts and South Pittsburgh neighborhoods!

-Met with City Planning Assistant Director Andrew Dash, and the District 4 Neighborhood Planner Josh Lippert about how both business owners and residents of District 4 neighborhoods can take greater advantage of the services offered by the Strategic Planning Division of City Planning, run by Andrew. Strategic Planning creates plans which set the standard for policy decisions regarding changes to the City's physical environment.

### **Key Projects Identified in Beechview**

The New Year has brought a focus on several key projects in the Beechview neighborhood identified by local businesses and residents. During the December resident volunteers meeting, Beechview residents decided to focus their efforts on strategic greening projects along with organizing community events with a strong artistic and creative flavor. **On February 3rd from 6-8 PM both groups will meet at Brew on Broadway to discuss concrete projects and endeavors they wish to push forward.** All interested volunteers are welcome to attend.

During the Beechview Merchants Association's annual gathering in early January, local businesses voted on their favorite slogan and prioritized key initiatives to improve the Broadway Corridor. The favorite slogan was "Beechview: Affordable, Beautiful, & Convenient." Local businesses selected the following initiatives as a priority: Joint Advertising on the T, a Beechview Small Resource Fair, Improved Streetscaping and Lighting, and reinstating "A Taste of Beechview". **BMA will hold its next meeting on Wednesday February 25th at 7 PM to discuss how to move forward with these initiatives and creatively brand Beechview. All Beechview Businesses are welcome to join.**

If you would like to assist this initiative in any way please contact Dave Brewton at (412) 295-4787 or by e-mail at [drbrewton@ymail.com](mailto:drbrewton@ymail.com).

### **Coordinating Efforts to Improve Child Care in Pittsburgh**

For the past several months, the Women's Caucus of City Council has come together to take action on issues important to families and children across the City. The availability, affordability, and quality of child care for working families is one of the most pressing issues in our region. Most children are born to families in which both parents work. Meanwhile, we know that when children are enrolled in high quality early childhood programs, they do better in school, achieve higher educational attainment, and just plain do better in life. Council passed a bill to commission an assessment of child care in Pittsburgh so that we can better understand the regional demand for child care, whether or not we have enough providers and spaces to meet demand, and what other challenges providers may face as they work toward improving quality. This month, Councilwoman Rudiak convened leaders working on this issue at our local philanthropic foundations with the Women's Caucus and the City's Bureau of Neighborhood Empowerment to ensure that all of their efforts are complementary and working toward the same goals. Surely, the City cannot fix this issue alone, and it will take a strong coalition and the resources of many organizations to ensure that all families who need it have affordable access to the best quality care for their children. We will keep you updated on the progress of the assessment and steps taken by Council and the City as these efforts move forward.

**\*\*\*Safer Together Pittsburgh - Department of Public Safety's Community Partnership Program**

Adapted from [http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/district4/Safer Together Pgh-Community Partnership Program Revised.pdf](http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/district4/Safer_Together_Pgh-Community_Partnership_Program_Revised.pdf)

To create positive relationships between the Department of Public Safety, including and the communities of Pittsburgh which will help protect all of us, Public Safety has created Safer Together Pittsburgh. Its goal is to work in partnership with citizens and communities to increase public safety, quality of life and ensure fair and impartial public safety services,

In order to achieve this goal the Department of Public Safety and the Community will partner to increase public safety by:

- Building relationships of respect, cooperation and trust within and between the Department of Public Safety and the Community.
- Improving education, oversight, monitoring, diversity, hiring practices and accountability of the Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety.
- Ensuring fair, equitable, and courteous treatment for all Department of Public Safety employees and Community members at all times.
- Increasing the public's understanding of Department of Public Safety policies and procedures and recognizing exceptional public safety service.
- Facilitating community activities and projects that establish positive and healthy encounters between the Department of Public Safety and Community

The Community Partnership Program will achieve these objectives by:

- Convening a steering committee of recognized academics and leading community members to ensure focus, vision and innovation for the outreach efforts of the Community and the Department of Public Safety.
- Conducting a comprehensive assessment of the department's present activities in regards to community outreach and engagement.
- Developing a database system and protocol that will allow the department to track who is attending which meetings and if there are any actionable or policy issues that need attention based upon the meetings. This will be a valuable tool for precinct commanders, command staff, and the Public Safety Community Partnership steering committee.
- Implementing a series of structured "community conversations" that will systematically engage the Department of Public Safety and community members from every area of the city.

### **\*\*\*Little Free Libraries**

Carl Uccellini, of the Carpentry Shop at Carrick High School, will supervise student-made lending library boxes. These small boxes will house books for borrowing or exchange in the so-called feeder neighborhoods to the school. They will serve as a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick

up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. You can, too! You can read more about the little library movement here: <http://littlefreelibrary.org/>

Permission has been requested from the Port Authority to install them on or near the Overbrook Stop on the Busway. Look out for them soon! See a sketch of these libraries here: [http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/district4/library\\_double.pdf](http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/district4/library_double.pdf)

### **Small Business Development Series Hosted by EDS**

Economic Development South is happy to announce the first events for the 2015 Small Business Series. EDS is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to bring free expert business services to the Corridor Communities.

#### *February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 am: 5 Things Your Business Should Do in 2015*

*Whitehall Community Room (100 Borough Park Drive, Whitehall)*

EDS and the SBDC will be holding the second workshop of the year on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast and networking will be from 7:30 to 8, followed by a presentation of 5 Things Your Business Should Do in 2015. This interactive presentation will be a crash-course on what you can do this year to strengthen your business.

#### *February 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 am: One-on-one Consulting Sessions*

*Economic Development South (4127 Brownsville Road, Suite 209, Pittsburgh, PA)*

Following this workshop, the SBDC will offer free one-on-one consulting sessions at EDS' office (4127 Brownsville Road, Suite 209). Interested businesses can meet with the director of the Small Business Development Center and receive confidential advice. Please see the contact information below to make an appointment for an hour-long session on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

As always, these events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Kathleen Keating from Economic Development South at [412-884-1400 x105](tel:412-884-1400) or [kkeating@economicdevelopmentsouth.org](mailto:kkeating@economicdevelopmentsouth.org)

### **Snow Removal Technology Upgrades: Track your Plow!**

The Departments of Public Works and Innovation and Performance are in the midst of several projects to improve the way we treat City streets during snow events and communicate with residents about our snow treatment progress. On January 16th, the City launched a website ([pittsburghpa.gov/snow](http://pittsburghpa.gov/snow)) that provides the public with comprehensive information about the City's snow treatment efforts. One of the features of this website is a snow plow tracker that allows users to see the current location of all Public Works plows and view the movement history of those vehicles as they treat City streets during the storm.

Additionally, Public Works is in the process of using advanced optimization software to create updated snow routes for each maintenance division. With these new routes in place, the City will be able to better target resources depending on storm intensity and maximize the efficiency of our snow treatment efforts. Public Works will be piloting new optimized snow routes during the first quarter of 2015 with the goal to have updated routes city-wide by the end of 2015. In parallel, Public Works will be working with researchers at Carnegie

Mellon University to complement our snow route optimization efforts. As part of this project, Carnegie Mellon will help the City develop in-cab turn-by-turn directions based on our new routes using mobile technology. Carnegie Mellon will also help Public Works identify how the baseline snow treatment plans can be adjusted to better address real world conditions such as storm intensity and equipment availability to ensure the most efficient treatment plan for each unique storm event.

### **Partner Violence Affects Your Business Too**

Partner violence doesn't stay at home. It comes to work, too. Is your business or employer prepared?

As a regional initiative, STANDING FIRM helps employers address partner violence in the workplace. Although a victim might endure most of the abuse behind closed doors, there is no denying the effect of the abuse once she comes to work. Whether she is distracted from her tasks, missing work because of injury, or constantly worried that her partner will come to work, the abuse doesn't just affect the employee who is a victim, it affects the workplace, and it puts her coworkers and customers at risk.

Would you know what to do if you suspected your co worker was being abused? Would you know what to say if your employee came to your office and said, "I'm having problems at

With over 260 members, ranging from large employers such as The City of Pittsburgh and UPMC to small "mom and pop" businesses with fewer than five employees, STANDING FIRM

helps business of all sizes and type create workplaces that are supportive of victims and intolerant of abusers. One in four women report being a victim of partner violence at some point in their lives, so it's important for all employers, large or small, to be able to recognize the signs that an employee may be a victim or a batterer, and to respond appropriately.

And, especially, since a small business might not have the security measures that larger companies might, think about the effective and affordable steps that can be taken to create a safer workplace and a safer community.

We are fortunate to have such a unique and valuable resource in Pittsburgh. Joining STANDING FIRM is a simple and effective way to make your workplace a safer place. Visit <http://www.standingfirmswpa.org/> to learn more!

### **Parks Permit Process Comes Online**

Adapted from an article By Robert Zullo / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Say goodbye to "Permit Day," at least as it has long been known in Pittsburgh.

For years, the city has doled out permits for park shelters, used to host family gatherings and parties, via a lottery that required applicants to queue at the City-County Building.

Often, they brought friends and relatives to increase chances of getting a better number, meaning a slew of people clogging the lobby of the Grant Street building.

Next month, though, a city website will allow users to apply and pay for the permits for the shelters online. The site will “soft launch” today, meaning applicants can familiarize themselves with it, create an account and look over shelters, though they won’t be able to reserve and pay for one of the 30 available shelters until 10 a.m. Feb. 11.

Those who want to apply in person can still do so on the same day and time at the city’s Public Works Permit Office, 611 Second Ave.

City shelters are available for rent between May and September, although they can be reserved up to 365 days in advance. Most cost \$75 a day, with an additional \$75 for an alcohol permit. Some larger shelters cost up to \$225, like the Rhododendron Shelter in Highland Park.

The site for registration is <http://registerparks.pittsburghpa.gov> or call 412-255-2370 for information.

### **You're Invited to the Small Business Week Resource Fair!**

The Mayor's Office, in partnership with the URA, will host a complimentary, government focused, Small Business Resource Fair. The purpose of the event is to offer small business owners in-person access to representatives from all relevant departments within city services (zoning, permits, ADA compliance, etc.) You will have the opportunity to have all of your questions answered--all in one location! This event would be ideal for small business owners such as restaurateurs, retail owners, contractors, etc. Street parking is free after 4PM!

Monday, Feb 2, 2015, 6-8:30PM  
City County Building, 6th Floor  
414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

### **Honoring Our Neighbors - Good News You Won't Hear on the News!**

This month, Councilwoman Rudiak sponsored a proclamation of Council to honor the work of the Young Elected Officials Network, who will be hosting their first summit in Pittsburgh the weekend of January 30-31 entitled “Defending Workers & Families: Creating an Economy That Works for All” . The Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network, a nonpartisan program of People For the American Way Foundation founded in 2005, is the first and only national initiative to provide a network of support to elected officials 35 years of age and under who share the values of freedom, fairness, and opportunity for all.

## **Citizen's Police Academy**

On February 10th, the new term of the Citizen's Police Academy will begin. New Zone 6 Commander Jason Lando said he "would love to see Zone 6 well-represented at the next CPA session!"

Twice a year, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police sponsors an opportunity for members of the community to become closely acquainted with the roles and responsibilities of the Police Bureau. The Pittsburgh Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) brings the police and the community close together in a setting that offers a sample of police training to each participant.

Participants receive three hours of training one evening each week for 15 weeks in many of the varied functions of law enforcement. They experience some of the highlights of police training and are exposed to the operations of the police bureau. Participants are taught the basics of criminal law, search and seizure, patrol tactics, firearms and many other subjects. They learn about the processing of a crime scene, how police canines are used, and are exposed to many of the specialty police units. CPA participants meet and talk with many of the street officers as well as the command staff and training staff that serves them. All this takes place in a safe and entertaining training environment.

Instructors are law enforcement professionals who teach both veteran and recruit police officers. Students leave this training with a greater understanding of the police mission and with an increased ability to see how the police serve the community.

This program is not an accredited certification course to become a sworn police officer.

The next session of the CPA will begin on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at the Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy 107 Thackeray Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213. The program will be held each Tuesday evening, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for 15 weeks. Class size is limited to 30 participants. All interested persons must complete an application and give permission for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police to conduct a background check to determine if they have a criminal record. The CPA application can be found at [http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/police/citizens\\_police\\_academy.htm](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/police/citizens_police_academy.htm)

Please return applications by U.S. mail or hand-deliver to the Pittsburgh Police Training Academy. All applications must be received by February 3, 2015.

For more information on the City of Pittsburgh Citizen's Police Academy, please contact Sergeant Eric Kroll at:

Pittsburgh Police Training Academy  
1395 Washington Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
eric.kroll@pittsburghpa.gov  
(412)665-3600

## **Love Your Block: Spring 2015 Applications Due 2/13**

As you may already know, servePGH recently released the application for the Spring 2015 Love Your Block season, which can be found here:

<http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock/grantapp> - hard copies are also available in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) upon request.

Applications will be accepted until **Friday, February 13, 2015**.

For more information about Love Your Block, please visit our website at <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock> or contact our program coordinator Sabrina Shaner at (412) 255-2280 or via email at [sabrina.shaner@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:sabrina.shaner@pittsburghpa.gov).

## **Invitation: Alcosan Public Meetings and Community Discussions**

You are invited to attend ALCOSAN's free public meetings and community discussions on Wednesday January 28, and Thursday, January 29.

Presentations to the public will include background to ALCOSAN, our regional sewer system, the Wet Weather Plan, and public information about regionalization, affordability and rates, and other issues.

All are welcome and ALCOSAN hopes for robust public discussions.

Here are the details of the three planned sessions, which will have identical content:

### **Wednesday, January 28 (Two Sessions)**

**-1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

**-6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

IBEW Circuit Center – 5 Hot Metal Street in the South Side

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### **Thursday, January 29**

**1:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

ALCOSAN – O & M Building Auditorium

3300 Prebble Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15233, Stop at guard house and ask for directions

Attendees will have many opportunities during each session to comment and ask questions, both publicly and in one-on-one discussions with ALCOSAN staff. We will provide background materials on all facets of ALCOSAN's work, and will have refreshments, too.

We have arranged a shuttle from the Heinz Field/Casino T Station for the Thursday discussion. Pre-registration of the community discussions will be available online and by telephone.

Attached is one of the print ads we will be running, which you can also use as a flyer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Jeanne K. Clark, Public Information Officer for ALCOSAN at 412-734-6222.

## **Shout Outs from the Pittsburgh Public Schools**

### **Carmalt Academy of Science and Technology**

Each month the first grade teachers create a parent and child after-school day called "Story Stretchers". During this time, the parent and their child spend time reading and creating stories together. January's session was held on January 28th at 5:00. Our middle school students are looking forward to the annual "Sweetheart Dance". This is held during the school day so that all student are able to participate. Carmalt staff wishes all of you a "Happy Sweet Heart Day", too!

*Reminder: **Feb 18, 5:00-7:00**—PSCC/Title 1/PTSA Meeting*

### **Concord Shout Outs**

Students at Pittsburgh Concord are starting off 2015 with several new clubs and activities. Fifth grade students are participating in the Ballroom Dancing Classroom Program. Fourth grade students will be starting their second session of chess club. Boys and girls basketball team will begin practicing. Several clubs are being held during lunch such as knitting, art, and Spanish club.

### **Brashear Shout Outs**

- Our Bridge Builders closed out a very successful food drive. They were able to donate several items to the local food bank.
- Our football team was honored and recognized by the Pittsburgh Steelers. The players were invited to attend one of the home games in December.
- Our Holiday Extravaganza was a huge success with a great turn-out! We were able to celebrate our diverse community at Brashear!

**-Feb. 6, 8:00 AM** - Coffee with the Administration

**-Feb. 19, 5:30 PM** - PSCC meeting

### **Brookline PreK-8 Shout Outs**

#### *Events*

- Feb 10 – Parent School Community Council – Library at 5:30 P.M.
- Feb 12 – Parent and School Book Study – Through Ebony Eyes – 9:00 AM in Library
- Feb 19th– Coffee with Administration – This is a great opportunity for parents and community members to meet in an informal way to discuss concerns, ask questions or applaud our efforts! Many of the suggestions made during Coffee translate into meaningful and lasting changes that positively affect our school!

*PTA sponsored activities include:*

**-Feb 3 - Science Bingo for Grades 3 & 4**

- Feb 10 – Science Calendar Project support grades 1 & 2
- Feb 13 – Candy Gram Fundraiser

### **South Brook Middle School Shout Outs**

- January marked our attendance initiative for our students and those students who met the criteria were invited to the school dance.
- In December our National Junior Honor Society volunteered for POWER (a women's shelter) and helped them to gift wrap presents for the holiday. In addition a group of our students made blankets and donated them to the Human Society.
- Our Student of the Month and Most Improved Student breakfast was held on January 30th in South Brook's Cafeteria.

### **Beechwood Elementary Pre-K through 5**

We have BIG NEWS this Month! Beechwood Elementary is a winner of the "Reward-High Progress Award" for the state of Pennsylvania. This Title 1 Distinguished Schools Award is given to school in the top 55 in closing the achievement gap in writing and mathematics for the PSSA. As a reward school, Beechwood Elementary is eligible for two grants for \$50,000. In addition, we will be presenting to other schools on our successful strategies. We are very proud of this awesome achievement! This is the third time in the past 7 years that Beechwood Elementary has won this award. Congratulations Beechwood!

A "shout-out" to all of our volunteers who helped make our annual January Bingo/Math night a success! All of the students enjoyed themselves, and we collected many food donations for St Catherine's food bank!

Also returning in January, was our All Pro Dads and iMom programs. These are special programs where Moms and Dads, (or any caregiver) and kids get together and do activities to help improve relationships. This is a FREE Nation-Wide program that is open to the whole community! We have each of these meeting every month. We are currently trying to get the word out by way of Church bulletins to invite more families for future meetings!

On our next "Beechwood Supports" day we will be supporting THE HUDDLE on Beechview Ave. Come our on Thursday, March 12th and dine-in or take out from THE HUDDLE all this day. Mention that you are supporting Beechwood this day and be entered to win a gift card!

Our next BPFA general meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16th, 2015 at 3:00pm in the school library. As always, there will be snacks and a free raffle. Meetings are open to anyone in the community so please join us!

-Contact the BPFA at [beechwoodpfa@yahoo.com](mailto:beechwoodpfa@yahoo.com) to learn more!

### **Meetings**

#### **Monday, 2/2**

7 - 9 PM - Carrick Overbrook Block Watch

Concord Elementary, 2350 Brownsville Road

**Thursday, 2/5**

7 - 9 PM - Beechview Area Concerned Citizens  
Beechview United Presbyterian Church, 1621 Broadway Ave

**Tuesday, 2/10**

7 - 9 PM - Brookline Block Watch  
Judge Jim Motznik's Office, 736 Brookline Blvd

**Monday, 2/16**

President's Day

**Thursday, 2/19**

7 - 8 PM - Mt. Washington Community Forum  
Senior Center, 122 Virginia Ave

**Tuesday, 2/24**

7 - 9 PM - Overbrook Community Council - With Special Guest Greg Jones for OCC  
Visioning  
Accamando Center, 2410 Saw Mill Run Boulevard