

From the Office of Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak

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

-On February 4th, I was proud to launch OpenGov, a webpage that allows anyone and everyone to view the City's budgets, spending and revenues over the years. This is the result of legislation that I introduced and passed in the Spring of 2014. Taxpayers can quickly and easily see how much the City receives from the Local Service Tax, or how much the City spends on garbage collection, for example. You can explore OpenGov at home, here! <https://pittsburghpa.opengov.com/transparency>

-My staff and I learned that PennDOT's reconstruction of the Rt. 88 and Rt. 51 intersection is *on schedule*! The contractor is working 2 10-hour shifts daily, 6 days a week to stay on track.

-I joined other members of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Early Childhood Education to announce the panel's first report, detailing recommendations and opportunities for partnerships to improve the Pittsburgh Public Schools. You can learn more about the report here: <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2015/02/19/Mayor-Peduto-s-education-task-force-cites-five-ways-schools-city-can-collaborate/stories/201502190193>

-My staff and I met with Taylor Sumansky, the Supervisor of Animal Care and Control, to learn more about her efforts to provide new training opportunities for employees, improve their fleet of vehicles, and make their operations more efficient.

-I met with Tree Vitalize, an organization dedicated to increasing the number of trees in the region. Since 2008, they have planted 20,000 trees in Pittsburgh! They are now nearing the end of a comprehensive tree inventory to ensure that all the trees that have been planted can be tracked and maintained over the coming years. Maintenance will be critical in ensuring that the trees live long and healthily, and that they continue to provide shade, clean air, and many other benefits to neighbors.

-I joined TV and radio personality, Chris Moore, on "Pittsburgh Now" for a lively discussion about Paid Parental Leave. I was able to explain that this legislation will assist parents and their children on a fundamental level and create a more family-friendly working environment for City Employees.

-I met with Becky Gallagher of Colteryahn Dairy to discuss plans for the Carrick Dairy District, including the lot at Brownsville and East Myers Avenue, which will be developed (thanks to a \$300,000 grant from the Hillman Foundation and Economic Development South) into a landing place for fairs, festivals and farmer's markets! Construction of a pavillion will begin soon for some shade and shelter from rain.

-I had breakfast with the Polish Consulate General, former European Union Ambassador, and Senator Urszula Gacek!

-Attended the NAIOP Market Update to get the latest on commercial real estate in Pittsburgh! NAIOP is a commercial real estate development association which connects real estate professionals, and assesses trends in the industry.

-Joined professional cleaners at the University of Pittsburgh for a candlelight vigil in support of their contract negotiations. Cleaners at Pitt are facing unfair working conditions, and paying 15% of their income back to their healthcare plans. We stood together in the negative temperatures to call on Pitt to agree to fair working conditions and fair wages.

-My staff and I met with a developer who is interested in investing in Beechview's Broadway Avenue. Stay tuned!

-I met with Carrick business owners and Zone 3 Police to talk about public safety issues on Brownsville Road, and plan for a business block watch.

Beechview Senior and Community Center Progress Report

The long-awaited Beechview Senior Center renovation is a top priority and moving forward. Many of you will recall that State Representatives Michael Diven and Chelsa Wagner dedicated a combined \$1.5 million to the project, but real estate deals fell through over the years, and the City was having trouble finding the right property to purchase and renovate.

In March 2014, the City purchased 1553 Broadway Avenue, the building that currently houses the Senior Center. The \$3 Million project is now fully funded, and the City is moving forward with an architecture firm to create engineered drawings of the interior and exterior of the building. We look forward to sharing those designs with Senior Center patrons and Beechview residents when they are complete. Look out for public meetings on this subject sometime in Fall of 2015.

In the meantime, the City is awarding a contract for an initial phase of work, which includes masonry repointing/reconstruction, new windows, and some interior demolition in currently vacant parts of the building. The coffeeshop and the senior center will not be disturbed until the The windows on all floors will be replaced, with the exception of the large storefront windows. Window openings that had previously been reduced will be opened up to their original, historical size. Windows on the storefronts will be replaced later, during the primary phase of construction to minimize risk of breakage. We expect this masonry and window work to begin sometime this summer!

All in all, we look forward to an expanded and improved Senior Center for Beechview! Stay tuned.

New Commander, Community Officers in Zone 6

For those of you who haven't heard, Zone 6 has added some new community officers in addition to new Commander Chris Ragland. In our Council district, Zone 6 serves Brookline and Beechview. Officer Julie Ott will be working the afternoon/evening shift as our 2nd Zone 6 CRO (Community Resource Officer). Julie has already started making her way around to all of the businesses in Zone 6 to introduce herself to the various owners and employees. If you are a business owner in Zone 6, you will get to meet Julie in the next few weeks or months. She will collect contact information for as many businesses as possible so we have a way to reach the owners in the event of an emergency in the off-hours. If you are a business owner, look out for Officer Ott!

Ken Stewing continues to serve you as the daylight CRO and will continue to keep you up-to-date on crime stats.

Officers Pam Deguffroy and Tom Duffola have been added as our Community Response Car. They will be working together and will be out in the street every day answering 311 Complaints, Silent Complaints, and dealing with any other police-related concerns you bring to us at your community meetings.

Important Upcoming Meetings in Beechview

Beechview volunteers met on February 3rd to identify priority projects for the neighborhood! Two projects in particular have risen to the top:

1. The community overwhelmingly decided to resurrect the Taste of Beechview festival this summer, after last year's hiatus. Volunteers will meet again on Tuesday, March 24th to work on next steps (location and time TBA).
2. Residents also decided to prioritize beautification of landscaping around the public parking lot on Broadway Avenue at Beechview Avenue. Volunteers will meet on Tuesday, March 31st at BREW on Broadway (1557 Broadway Avenue) in the evening to discuss the types of plantings desired, design of the space, and future maintenance plan.

If you have questions or would like to attend either of these events, please contact David Brewton at drbrewton@ymail.com

Do you own a small businesses or are you thinking of starting a small business in Beechview? Don't miss the Small Business Resource Fair - Monday, March 23 from 4 to 7:30 at BREW on Broadway, organized by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), which pulls together important information and resources for small businesses. In addition to the URA, the following organizations will be in attendance: SCORE, the Small Business Administration, Duquesne University's Small Business Development Center, and Chatham's Center for Women's Entrepreneurship.

If you need further information on these events and/or would like to be involved in any Beechview projects/initiatives please contact Dave Brewton at (412) 295-4787 or by e-mail at drbrewton@ymail.com.

Senior Luncheons

Monday through Friday, at 14 senior centers throughout the City, neighbors aged 60+ can enjoy a nutritious and satisfying meal with Citiparks. The meals are provided through a partnership with the Allegheny County Department of Human Services/Area Agency on Aging. In order to have lunch at the senior centers, please pre-register by noon the day

before going to the center. Lunches are usually served around noon, but please call the information line at 412-422-6401 for times, menus and locations.

Police Officers needed: It's a Matter of Pride!

The Department of Personnel & Civil Service Commission is actively recruiting for the position of Police Officer. As with all City of Pittsburgh careers, this position allows an employee a unique and rewarding opportunity to make a difference within our community. Pittsburgh Bureau of Police statement on values:

*We believe in the value and worth of all members of the Bureau of Police. We believe our integrity is not negotiable. We believe we are individually accountable for upholding the values of the organization. We believe we can best earn respect by first respecting the rights of others. We believe in striving to achieve the highest moral, ethical and professional standards. We will adapt to the changing future by maintaining partnerships built upon **accountability, integrity and respect.***

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply online to embark on their journey to become a part of a proud history and represent the future of the Bureau. Applications are being accepted NOW! www.pghjobs.net. Learn more at www.joinpghpolice.com. Questions? Call (412) 255-2710 or email joinpghpolice@pittsburghpa.gov.

Brashear Association opens new office inside the YMCA Hilltop Computer Center

From The South Pittsburgh Reporter - March 3, 2015

The [Brashear](#) Association, an agency serving children and families throughout South [Pittsburgh](#), has opened a new office at the YMCA Hilltop Computer Center, 500 [Brownsville](#) Road.

At the new office, residents can meet with a case manager to apply for energy assistance programs, access public benefits, discover community resources, and discuss family needs. The case manager, Katelyn Annett, will also work with young people, ages 14-26, primarily on employment issues.

Ms. Annett can be reached at 412-620-8234. All services are by appointment.

The expansion was made possible through a partnership with Economic Development South.

"We are grateful to both Economic Development South and the YMCA Hilltop Computer Center to helping us extend our services to the [Brownsville](#) Road corridor. We hope that residents of communities like [Bon Air](#), Carrick, [Knoxville](#), and Mt. [Oliver](#) will find this location to be more convenient than our other offices," Hugh Brannan, executive director of [Brashear](#) Association, stated.

In addition to the new location on [Brownsville](#) Road, [Brashear](#) offers family assistance services at [Brashear](#) Center at 2005 Sarah Street in [South Side](#) and the [Brashear](#) Neighborhood Employment Center at 730 [Warrington](#) Avenue in [Allentown](#). The Association also operates the [Allentown](#) Learning and Engagement Center (ALEC) at 1206 [Arlington](#)

Avenue in [Allentown](#) and the Henry Kaufmann Neighborhood House at 2201 Salisbury Street in [Arlington](#).

For information about the programs and services of [Brashear](#) Association, call 412-431-2236 or visit the agency's website at <http://www.brashearassociation.org>. Agency services are supported, in part, by the Pennsylvania Neighborhood Partnership Program.

Lifeguard Recruitment

Are you interested in becoming a Citiparks Lifeguard? Lifeguard training starts soon!

Lifeguard training classes will be held at the Oliver Bath House. There are two sessions to choose from:

1. March 14-April 25, Saturdays from Noon to 6PM (No class April 4, 2015)
2. May 5-May 28, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6PM-10PM AND Saturday, May 16th from 9AM-6PM

The course costs \$70 and a payment plan is available. Lifeguards must be City of Pittsburgh residents and 16-years-old or older by May 30, 2015. Starting pay for Lifeguards is \$8.82/per hour. Call the Aquatic Division Office for information and registration at 412-343-7928.

New Leadership PA

Sunday, May 31 - Friday, June 5
Chatham University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

NEW Leadership opens previously unimagined possibilities for college women and encourages them to break down barriers that have traditionally kept women from political life. Graduates of the program have become elected officials, campaign managers, congressional staffers, issue advocates and leaders in their communities and campuses.

In 2014, Students from 19 universities across the commonwealth spent the week of June 1-6th at Chatham University meeting and learning from current and former elected officials, leaders in political advocacy, and experts in fields such as public speaking, networking, and diversity initiatives.

With the support of foundations, corporations and individual donors, NEW Leadership's goals ensure that this unique learning opportunity is available to all eligible students regardless of their personal financial situations, participating schools are asked to pay a \$300 per student fee to help defray costs.

NEW Leadership prepares women leaders for the 21st century, ready to step forward with vision, courage, and the skills to meet the challenges ahead. Each year, a diverse group of

women from two- and four- year schools across Pennsylvania is selected to attend NEW Leadership. Participants become part of a network of current and future women leaders who share a commitment to making a difference in their communities.

Apply today! <http://www.chatham.edu/pcwp/education/NEWLeadership/>. Application deadline: Friday, March 29, 2015.

Honoring Our Neighbors, Good News You Won't Hear on the News

In February we honored the following with Proclamations of Council, a recognition of excellent work in our community by our neighbors.

-Kribel's Bakery, for 84 years of family-made, time-tested, delicious baked goods in both Troy Hill and Brookline, and an amazing family and worth ethic with an orientation to bettering their community.

-Patrick Jordan, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's 2014 Performer of the Year, for his contribution to two plays by his production company, barebones productions, and his accomplishments as a professional actor for over 15 years including such work as a number of films and television projects ranging from independent to major Hollywood films such as The Dark Knight Rises, Southpaw, The Mysteries of Pittsburgh, and She's Out of My League and role as Denny in "Steady Rain" and Stanley in "A Streetcar Named Desire" which helped propel him to the top of the Post-Gazette's Performers for 2014.

Pittsburgh Artist Registry

The Pittsburgh Artist Registry is a portal for visual, literary, performing, and multi-disciplinary artists in southwestern PA. It is a portfolio site for artists to expand their audience and to promote their work. The registry connects artists with curators, arts venues, entities seeking to commission work, community organizations, individuals, and businesses. The registry is free to join, and free to use.

The registry is used by local artists to find collaborators, curators to find new artists to exhibit, theaters and music venues to find new performers, and art collectors looking for regional artists. The Office of Public Art uses the registry to share information about local artists with our clients. Creating a profile and keeping it up-to-date ensures that you will be considered for upcoming public art opportunities. Create your profile now:

<http://www.pittsburghartistregistry.org/>

My Bike; Custom Bikes for Kids

Adapted from WESA article by Charlee Song, "*My Bike Program Gives Free Adaptive Bikes to Children with Disabilities*"

<http://wesa.fm/post/my-bike-program-gives-free-adaptive-bikes-children-disabilities>

What started as an idea in November, 2012 has become a reality that might become a national model, according to Charles LaVallee, Chief Executive Officer of Variety the Children's Charity. At a cost of \$1,800 each, more than 700 bikes adapted to children with disabilities have been given away free of charge in the Pittsburgh region, and **250 more are available.**

Monday morning, five more bikes were presented at Pittsburgh Public Schools' Pioneer Education Center in Brookline at an event attended by Mayor Bill Peduto, PPS Superintendent Linda Lane, and Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak, among others. LaVallee said parents of many eligible children have not yet heard of the program.

"You have to have, obviously, a disability that you cannot ride a typical bike. We have income guidelines, but they're high. We're at what's called 400% of the federal poverty level. An easy way to think about that is \$97,000 for a family of four, so that surprises people sometimes. They think, "Oh, we've never been eligible for anything."

Twenty-year-old Jacob Buchheit contracted a virus that affected his brain when he was one year old, so according to his mother Eileen, his life has been a struggle. "He has overcome paralysis twice and multiple surgeries and infections and things that go along with that. For him to be 18 is very happy for us and for him to be able to ride a bike is even more happy for us, so we're very thrilled to be here today."

Jacob's brother, Evan, said he and his brother now have an opportunity they never would have had without the "My Bike" program. "This Christmas, actually, I got a bike and Jake was a little bummed out that he wouldn't be able to join me on the many Pittsburgh trails that we're so blessed to have here. This moment really means that we can share something together. Jacob and I can get up, go out and ride our bikes together and have fun and laugh."

Dinetta Walker adopted her 15-year-old granddaughter Jasmine after she suffered "shaken baby syndrome" when she was 2-1/2 months old. Walker said Jasmine has brought exceptional qualities to the challenges she faces. "Resilience, unconditional love, determination—that's what she's full of, so from morning to night, that what we get up to, so she's my teacher as well," Walker said. "Jasmine's battled all the way from the floor up literally through standing boards, through wheelchairs, through walkers."

The bikes have been adapted by Blackburn's in Tarentum. Stands are provided to help the kids practice on their bikes indoors. They come apart easily for transporting to safe places to ride.

Variety Pittsburgh has 250 more bikes to give. If you know someone who could be helped by a custom bike, click here to apply: <http://varietypittsburgh.org/BikeApplication.asp>

City Council in a Nutshell

Though I live in South Pittsburgh and jet to and from meetings all across the City, as a City Councilmember, a lot of my time is spent Downtown at the City-County Building on Grant

Street, where I represent Beechview, Brookline, Bon Air, Carrick and Overbrook in our Council proceedings. Every Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m., all nine members of City Council meet to discuss official business and pass legislation. These meetings are really where the rubber meets the road in American democracy, and as citizens, you're a part of that process!

In fact, all of our meetings are open to the public, and we start every meeting off with a public comment session. Anyone is able to come down to Council Chambers and speak for three minutes on any subject relevant to the work for Council. If you're interested in coming to speak, register with the City Clerk's Office by calling 412.255.2138 OR To register, go to <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/cityclerk/schedule> and click the Public Hearing Sign Up Form link under Public Hearing Schedule.

These meetings are recorded, aired live, and also re-broadcast later that evening at 7:00 p.m. and again on the weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Tuesday meetings on Saturdays and Wednesday meetings on Sundays) on Comcast channel 13 or Verizon channel 44. To watch Council live online, or to learn more about specific agendas and topics, access the Legislative Information Center at www.pittsburghpa.gov/lic.

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. are our regular Council meetings. Councilmembers are given an opportunity to present proclamations to individuals, organizations, or businesses that are making a positive impact in our City. Afterwards, regular Council business begins. All new bills are introduced on Tuesdays, whether a Councilmember is introducing his or her own bill or one on behalf of a City department.

If you were to turn on the television and witness a lot of vigorous discussion (or just plain arguing) around the Council table, you are most likely watching one of our Wednesday meetings. After a bill is introduced, it is typically then discussed at the following Wednesday "Standing Committee" meeting. Councilmembers sit around a large table, and oftentimes experts or department directors are brought to the table to allow for a full, informed discussion about a piece of legislation. Though it seems like one long meeting, it's actually a series of meetings of each Council committee. Each member is the chairperson of one of nine Standing Committees, which the Council President assigns. Though council does not directly manage all of the City's various departments (that's the job of the Mayoral Administration), we do usually oversee funding transfers. I chair the Finance and Law Committee, which oversees how council spends money. For a list of the committees, see <http://pittsburghpa.gov/council/committees>.

After discussing a bill, Councilmembers can offer amendments, vote to give it preliminary approval, hold the bill for a certain amount of time, or table it for a later date. Some of our Wednesday meetings have lasted for eight hours!

On the following Tuesday, we will usually give final approval to the bill. Each member is required to vote when his or her name is called, and the vote becomes part of the public record. Every bill with at least five votes is then given to the mayor for his signature. The mayor can veto the bill, but Council can override a mayoral veto with a two-thirds vote (six

members out of nine total members). If the mayor takes no action with the bill, it will automatically become law after 10 days.

If you have any questions about how a bill becomes law, please feel free to contact my office through my website at <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/district4> or by calling 412.255.2131.

Shout Outs from PPS

Due to the abnormally cold and snowy February, filled with delays and school closings, Pittsburgh Public Schools faculty and students are extraordinarily busy catching up on coursework. Please look for the Shout Outs from PPS to return in April.

Meetings

Thursday, 3/10

6-8 PM - Brookline Block Watch, Judge Jim Motznik's Office, 736 Brookline Blvd

Thursday, 3/19

*6-8 PM - Welcoming Pittsburgh Community Meeting in Beechview
Please rsvp at www.welcomingpittsburgh.com*

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

Tuesday, 3/24

7-9 PM - Overbrook Community Council, Accamando Center, 2410 Saw Mill Run Boulevard

Thursday, 3/26

*6:00pm **First Meeting** of the Mount Washington/Duquesne Heights Community Council,
Mount Washington Senior Center, 122 Virginia Avenue, 15211*