



A Message From The PHCA President

Dear Neighbor,

In the beginning of my second term as PHCA President, I am incredibly thankful for the experiences we have had and the friends we have made along the way. To say that I am proud of the work PHCA has accomplished is a huge understatement.

Long overdue office renovations have begun and we are so excited to continue to share the progress. We are working hard to get the office back to being a welcoming community hub like it was in a former time. We welcome receiving your ideas for ways the office can better serve the community; please let us know! Keep an eye out this spring for the installation of our *Neighborhood Food Pantry*

where neighbors can donate excess food and take food when they need.

Staying in-the-know of the happenings of the neighborhood is only possible because of our dedicated board and members. In December, you elected five members to the Board and we have since voted to bring five more neighbors on as Interim Directors for the remainder of 2025.

We arranged numerous meetings to discuss the City's proposed zoning changes and have seen just how enthusiastic everyone is about protecting and growing our little piece of heaven here in the Heart of Pittsburgh. Polish Hill neighbors made their voices heard...and

the City Planning Department has paused the process in order to seek more favorable recommendations from the Planning Commission and continue public engagement for the *Transit Oriented Development Zoning Map Amendments*. Further updates will be posted on *EngagePGH*.

We will keep evolving to meet the needs of the community but we welcome your inputs and insight! Please let us know what we can do to continue to improve Polish Hill and together we can make it an even better place to live.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement!

Colleen

PHCA Committee Updates



The Green Team

The Committee organized a Seed Swap on February 8th. Neighbors came and shared seeds and stories for the coming planting season.

We are getting ready to re-open the community gardens. Payments for community garden plots are due by May 1. You can pay on our website or in person at a community meeting!

Contact **Gus at gus@phcapgh.org** for more information.



Safety & Mobility Committee

The Committee has worked with city partners to improve traffic safety throughout the neighborhood.

Some recent accomplishments include:

- » A double yellow line painted to the end of Bethoven St.
- » Pedestrian crossing signage installed at 30th St and Phelan Way
- » Awareness-raising campaign regarding the PRT Redesign

The Committee continues to work toward additional safety measures and welcomes Community input.

Committee Contacts

Arts Fest: talon@phcapgh.org • **Green Team:** gus@phcapgh.org • **Safety & Mobility:** matt@phcapgh.org
Family Engagement: matt@phcapgh.org • **Fundraising:** danielbrianberg@gmail.com
Housing & Development: colleen@phcapgh.org • **Monument Committee:** phca@phcapgh.org



News from the Desk of Representative Lindsey Powell

I'm thrilled to welcome more than \$146,000 in state grants for our neighborhoods' fire and EMS companies! These state dollars provide operational support and resources for our local first responders, allowing them to continue safely protecting our communities.

Property Tax Rent Rebate Applications are now open! My team is here to help eligible renters and homeowners file for their 2024 rebate. Applicants must be over the age of 65, a widow or widower, or an adult living with a disability. Call our office to learn more about what documents are needed to apply.

PA's *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)* is available to help pay your heating bill. Eligible applicants can receive \$200 to \$1,000 based on household size, income, and fuel type. My team is happy to help you apply!

Office Hours at 5154 Butler St
Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm.
412 781 2750



Save the Dates!

*Polish Hill May Day Parade

Saturday May 3, 2025

This year's theme is "Cross-generational continuity"

Follow @polishhillmayday on Instagram for more infozzz

*Community Yard Sale

Sunday May 11, 2025 • 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Help us raise money for the Arts Fest by donating gently used and clean household items, books and more!

More details to come!

*PHCA Community Meetings

Community Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month

West Penn Rec Center
450 30th St, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

We'd love to see you, neighbor!

A Polish Hill Memoir: tENTATIVELY, a cONVENIENCE – resident for 29 years

I visited Pittsburgh in January, 1995, to give 2 performances/screenings under the auspices of *Orgone Cinema* at the *Silver Eye Gallery*. I had a great time so I moved to Pittsburgh a year later. There was a blizzard in January 1996, so no landlords would show their properties but I could look at them myself. I was poor so I looked in the newspaper and found only two homes renting for \$250 a month. One was by the Mon in an industrial area and I figured it for a rat habitat.

The other was in Polish Hill.

I’m a filmmaker and *Pittsburgh Filmmakers* had just moved a few blocks away. Perfect!



I’m originally from Baltimore where you’re welcome to live fast OR slow and still be likely to die young. In Pittsburgh, I discovered that I could Live Fast, Die Old! Polish Hill is the most peaceful place I’ve ever lived. What? No gunfire? No sirens every 45 minutes?! How could I sleep at night?! I figured I could adjust.

SO, yeah, I love Polish Hill. It’s a small community where some poor people live, where some richer people live, where some fierce anarchist monsters like myself live and where, strangely enough, almost everyone is actually NICE.

Gotta love it.



Enjoy your Breakfast and Lunch Polish Hill Vegan Style at *Kaibur Coffee*

Adam Vandivier and Sarah Spurgeon, the husband and wife team behind *Kaibur Coffee* tell their story: “We took over as owners in May 2023. With over a decade of coffee shop/ restaurant management each, we wanted to stop managing other people’s coffee shops and go into business for ourselves. When seeing that *Kaibur* was for sale it seemed like the perfect match for us. The *Star Wars* and punk/ metal theme felt right at home. We were drawn to the small neighborhood feel and dietary options that were available. We took the menu that was already there and added more lunch options (BLTs – vegan and non vegan and a fresh veggie sandwich, for example).

Even though our kitchen is small and limited, we strive to serve fresh and locally sourced (when available) ingredients. We make syrups

and alt milks in house. The hummus and tofu scramble are house made. Fresh vegan pastries made daily with vegan donuts made in house on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. We partner with local bakeries for our breads, *Mediterra* bakehouse for gluten full and *Wildrise Bakery* for gluten free. We also offer gluten free donuts made by *Wildrise*.

When we first took over we were overjoyed with the support and acceptance of the community. We love seeing our regulars on a weekly or even daily basis and getting to know them more and more. We are very happy to share the building with *Pleasant Dreams Records* and *Doomed Planet Comics*, and we even currently are offering a *Pleasant Dreams latte* (a take on a London fog with peppermint and chocolate) and a *Doomed Planet mocha* (a spicy mocha with cinnamon, cayenne and ginger).



We look forward to seeing all of our Polish Hill neighbors and continuing our adventure with you!
Monday through Friday 8am – 3pm • Saturdays 9am – 3pm • Sundays 9am – 1pm
3138 Dobson Street, Polish Hill • 412 522 7150 • kaiburcoffee.com

Polish Hill & West Penn Recreation Center

Every resident in Pittsburgh should take advantage of Pittsburgh’s Parks and Recreation facilities and we in Polish Hill are so lucky that our neighborhood includes the *West Penn Rec Center*.

For just **\$5 per month** we have access to so many facilities and activities. And of course we can’t wait for the summer pool season!

Besides hosting our monthly PHCA community meetings, popular activities at the Center include pickleball open court times and yoga



April and May Schedule

Rec Center Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am – 9:00pm
Saturdays - 10:00am–3:00pm
Sundays - CLOSED

Pickleball Open Court

Mondays & Thursdays - 9:15am–1:00pm
Tuesdays -12:00pm–3:00pm
Wednesdays - 5:30pm–8:30pm

Yoga

Wednesdays & Saturdays - 10:15–11:45am

Join the PHCA today!

Sign up online or clip this form and mail it in.
Membership is for the 2025 Calendar Year

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

☐ \$10 Voting Member (residents)

Email: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

☐ \$10 Friend of PHCA (non-residents)

☐ \$50 Super Supporter (residents) *Free Polish Hill Tote bag!*

Polish Hill Civic Association 2025 Board of Directors

Colleen Shuda, *President*

Dan Berg • Leslie Clague
Matt Cotter • Jacob Klinger
Mark Knobil • Erica Moulinier
Gus Pionati • Oka Tai-Lee