

Parkside News

Parkside Community Association

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Summer 2013

www.parksidebuffalo.org

PCA to Host Mayoral Candidates Forum on August 22

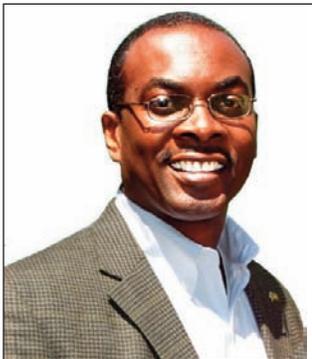
Summer is here—our weather is hot and so is Buffalo's political season. Petitions are passed and signed, the merits of the various candidates are debated, and almost everyone has an opinion about who should be our next mayor.

To help you make your decision, the Parkside Community Association Board of Directors is proud to announce that it will be hosting a forum featuring the three major candidates in this year's mayoral race. The forum will be held on Thursday, August 22, 2013, at 7 pm in the St. Mary's School for the Deaf Auditorium, 2253 Main Street. Mayor Byron Brown will face off against his Republican opponent, Sergio Rodriguez, and presumed Democratic primary opponent, Bernie

Tolbert. As this issue went to print, the petition signature process has not yet closed; however, all three of the declared candidates for the office of mayor have confirmed that they will attend.

Parkside resident and well-known media personality Brian Meyer will be the moderator. Jeanine Conley Baran is the chairperson. A link will be added to the PCA's website so that residents can submit relevant questions to be considered for the candidates.

Access our website at www.parksidebuffalo.org for continuing updates on this event or to submit your question. As always, if you have any questions, call the PCA office at 838-1240.



Left to right:
Mayor Byron
Brown,
Sergio
Rodriguez
and Bernie
Tolbert

Letter from the Executive Director

Ahh, summer in Buffalo—is there anything sweeter? Let the rest of the country have their hurricanes and locusts. We'll read about it over our morning coffee on quiet front porches, kissed by the warm Western New York breeze. It's time to celebrate the great outdoors once again, and we here at the PCA are happy to help.

We have just completed our 15th Annual Garden Tour, with more than 40 gardens opened to the public. Our Summer Arts Camp is underway, offering unparalleled arts education to kids from across the city. In August we will once again be presenting our Movies in the Meadow program, featuring five nights of free classic films shown in Delaware Park under the stars. Further afield, the city is bursting with free outdoor events, from concerts and festivals to Shakespeare and films. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for the first annual Parkside 5k Fun Run and Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 28.

Also this fall, the Buffalo Zoo will roll out improvements while renovations along Parkside Avenue continue. Despite the fervent efforts of the New York State Department of Transportation, we are working to keep alive the idea of the Scajaquada Expressway being downgraded to the pedestrian-friendly urban oasis envisioned back in 2004. While enjoying the weather, know that bigger and better things are still to come.

Take this, then, as your excuse to venture away from your backyards, to share the season with your neighbors, either at a Wine on Wednesday, or at any of the free outdoor events on offer. It's time to celebrate the great outdoors and remember that, though we may live in a city, there is always natural beauty to be found around the next corner.

Sincerely,
Ben Johnson, Executive Director

PARKSIDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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PCA MISSION

The mission of the Parkside Community Association is to advocate, communicate and act on behalf of the Parkside neighborhood to preserve and enhance the quality of life.

Development Corner

Buffalo Zoo to Open New Entry Complex

After months of construction, the Buffalo Zoo will open their new main entrance in July. Following a groundbreaking ceremony in September, general contractor Kirst Construction began the renovations of a brick barn from the 1940s into the new entry complex. The design by Foit-Albert Associates includes a new ticket office featuring two windows for members, as well as five ticketing windows facing the Zoo's parking lot. The new entrance also features a new café, expanded gift shop, and restrooms. The centerpiece of the plaza is the Great Lakes fountain, which serves as an introduction to the Zoo's water theme, which recurs throughout many of the exhibits.

The moving of the entrance to the new plaza will make way for the Zoo's Arctic Edge exhibit. If the Zoo is able to raise the remaining \$3 million needed to build the exhibit, construction for Arctic Edge is slated to begin later this fall. The exhibit will house polar bears as well as other arctic and sub-arctic species. To contribute to the Zoo's efforts to build Arctic Edge, please make your polar pledge at www.buffalozoo.org.



Aloma D. Johnson Fruit Belt Community Charter School Opening in August

See pages 6-7 for interviews with representatives from the development company and the school.

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate the PCA's 50th Anniversary!
Friday, December 6, 2013, 6-8 pm
Darwin D. Martin Greatbatch Pavilion

Be sure to save the date for the PCA's special 50th Anniversary Gala, with awards, presentations, food and wine, to be held at the Greatbatch Pavilion on the Darwin Martin Complex.

Further details to follow. Don't miss this unique opportunity to celebrate all that is Parkside!

Movies in the Meadow

Fridays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Each Friday evening in August, the PCA will be showing a movie outdoors in Delaware Park just after dusk. This popular, family-oriented event features mainstream titles that are rated PG and below.

Based on the ideas that were received from viewers last year and a survey on the PCA website, we chose five fun, classic films. We greatly appreciate everyone's input—it helped us come up with a great lineup for this year!

August 2: *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981)

August 9: *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (1982)

August 16: *The Maltese Falcon* (1941)

August 23: *The Sting* (1973)

August 30: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975)

This year, we have plenty of fun in store for our viewers. To celebrate *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, we will have snakes from Parkside's own Buffalo Zoo on hand for the kids. During our viewing of *E.T.*, we will be selling Reese's Pieces candy. Finally, the first 40 visitors to *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* will receive commemorative coconut shells! As always, we will have popcorn and other refreshments available to purchase.

The best part? Our movies are free to attend. So grab your lawn chair and cooler, put your kids in the stroller, and come on down to enjoy a movie under the stars in Delaware Park.

We hope you are as excited as we are for this fun, family program. If you or anyone you know would like to assist in volunteering at this event, please let the PCA office know!



Parkside Historic Walking Tours

You may be a proud Parksider, but what do you really know about the architectural history of our picturesque neighborhood? Well, you have a chance to learn about it every second Saturday of the month, between May and October. Usually led by longtime resident George Stock, the Parkside Neighborhood Tour gives the history of the neighborhood, from its early inhabitants through its development, downturn, and the revival we experience today.

Starts at Church of the Good Shepherd, Jewett Pkwy and Summit Ave

\$10 per person, \$5 for students

10 am on the Second Saturday of the Month May-October
August 10, September 7, and October 12

Century Plaque Program

Is your home over 100 years old? Would you like to find out? Contact the PCA to learn how to qualify for our Century Plaque Program, and display your history proudly.

Traffic Committee Update

A lot of attention has been given to the solar radar speed signs installed in both directions on Parkside Avenue. While they are not tied to enforcement, the city is collecting valuable data on the speed cars are driving in this 30-mile-per-hour zone. To see a news story featuring three residents, go to: www.wivb.com/dpp/news/local/city-posts-radar-signs-on-parkside-ave. The Traffic Committee would like to hear what you think of the signs; please email traffic@parksidebuffalo.org.

Additionally, you may have noticed that the pedestrian crossing time at Parkside and Florence Avenue has been increased by the City after hearing our community's concerns. The City is also pursuing action to address the traffic concerns throughout the neighborhood and has commissioned a traffic study for the entire Parkside community. The City has selected Hatch Mott MacDonald (www.hatchmott.com) to perform the Parkside Traffic Study. The planned schedule has a initial steering committee meeting in August. This study will review traffic volumes, trends, pedestrian and bicycle issues. Stay tuned for further information.

Flower Power Fundraiser

Even in July and August, it's never too soon to start planning your fall planting wish list. Now you can work toward becoming the envy of your block while supporting the PCA at the same time. We are pleased to announce our Fall Gardening Fundraiser in partnership with the online gardening catalog Flower Power. You can start supporting the PCA now by visiting us online at www.parksidebuffalo.org and following the links to our online store.

From now through October, 50% of any purchases made through FlowerPower.com will go directly to support the work of the PCA. You, in turn, will receive a shipment directly to your home of high-quality bulbs, mixes or collections. Orders placed before October 30 will be delivered in the fall at the height of planting season. This offer is available for friends of the PCA throughout the country, as orders from California to Maine will be delivered according to the appropriate planting season for each area. Share this offer with your friends and family, consider surprising them with the gift of flowers, and share this offer by liking us on Facebook and other social media sites. For questions or further details, please contact the PCA at 838-1240. Thank you for your support!



Door-to-Door Transportation for our Neighbors

The North Buffalo Neighbors Transportation Service is on the move! We're a PCA program that provides transportation for people age 65 and older and people experiencing difficult life circumstances. Since September, we've been helping out our neighbors with rides to medical appointments, and now we're also able to provide a limited number of rides for other purposes, such as social visits, shopping and hairdresser appointments.

When are the rides available? So far, we've provided rides Monday through Friday, during the day, but as more volunteer drivers join us, we'll be able to provide a wider range of hours.

How do you schedule a ride? Just call 352-7843 Monday through Friday, from 9 am to noon, and speak to the scheduler, or leave a message for call-back. Requests for rides can also be made by email at NorthBuffaloNeighbors@verizon.net. Please submit your requests one week in advance. We provide up to two rides per month per rider.

How much does it cost? Since we are volunteers, we can keep the cost very low! An appointment of less than two hours costs \$5, and longer appointments cost \$10. Riders are expected to pay for parking. The fees help to defray the cost of insurance for the drivers and the PCA.

Who provides the rides? The drivers are all volunteers, providing door-to-door service. We'd love to have more volunteers. You can give as many or as few rides each month as fits your schedule. This is a great way to meet new friends and give back to the community. If you're interested, please contact Susan Udin at 829-3571 or susan.udin@gmail.com.

Ever Think About Joining the PCA Board of Directors?

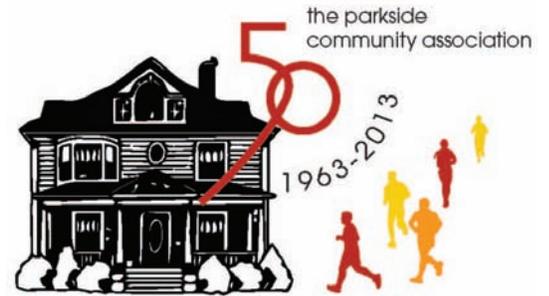
Even though the January 2014 PCA Board of Directors Election seems like a long way away, we all know how time flies! We will have a few Board of Directors positions open in January and are looking for interested candidates. If you have ever thought about running for the Board but hesitated to put forward your name, please consider it now! Contact Election Committee Chair Bonnie Weinberger at 716-604-8415 or bmwbuf@aol.com, or PCA Executive Director Ben Johnson at 716-838-1240 or pcadirector@gmail.com, with questions or requests for information. Or, if you personally know a current Board Member, have a chat with him or her about the roles and responsibilities of Board Members. Being a PCA Board Member is a rewarding experience. You would be a part of keeping Parkside the best that it can be!

Parkside 5k Fun Run and Oktoberfest

Saturday, September 28

The Parkside Community Association is commemorating its 50th anniversary with a 5k race at one of the premier running routes in Western New York and the namesake of the Parkside neighborhood, Delaware Park. The race will celebrate the Parkside community and the dedication and commitment of its residents to keeping this historic neighborhood vital. Parkside is a source of pride throughout the City of Buffalo. We hope runners, almost runners and everyone who appreciates Olmsted's great park and neighborhood will join us on Saturday, September 28, at 5 pm to be part of the celebration.

The event includes a children's dash at 4:50 pm and an Oktoberfest post-race party and awards. Entrants will receive a commemorative t-shirt. For information or to register, visit www.parksidebuffalo.org/5k or call the PCA office at 838-1240.



Oktoberfest 5K
September 28, 2013

2013 Home Tour Thank You

Chris Lavey and Bonnie Weinberger, co-chairs of the 15th Annual PCA Tour of Homes, held on Sunday, May 19, 2013, would like to extend a grateful "thank you" to everyone involved in the Home Tour this year! We were very fortunate to have a beautiful day for the tour, which helped to make it a successful event for the PCA.

Special thanks to the owners of the nine fabulous homes featured in the tour this year: Andrew Blake and Alana Cooper, Russell Maxwell, Neil and Pam Kattermann, Joan Baizer, Vince Buscaglia and Lawrence Brose, Sarah Robert and Nicolas Penchaszadeh, Karen Costantino, Bob and Marge Waddell and Tom Greene opened their homes to hundreds of visitors. Without their participation, we would not have a Home Tour! Thanks to all our docents and volunteers who worked with us on tour day to make the event a success.

Our gratitude goes to our Parkside Partners, the team at the Frank Lloyd Wright Martin House Complex for opening the Barton House, the Gardener's Cottage and Greatbatch Pavilion to our Home Tour ticketholders. We appreciate their support and participation for this event.

Lastly, a huge thanks to the Home Tour Committee—Monica Cichon, Barb Graham, Ben Johnson, Pamela Martin, Mike O'Sullivan and Rich Wolf worked with us for months to make this all happen. Many thanks to Steve Cichon, our VIP tour guide and historian; Joe Popiolkowski, our home photographer; Bernie Wagner, our tour day photographer; and all the merchants and politicians who purchased ads for the tour booklet and/or donated raffle basket items.

We now have fond memories of this year's Home Tour and look forward to next year! Save the date for the 16th Annual PCA Tour of Homes on Sunday, May 18, 2014.

Put your 5¢ into the local economy...



BORROW from the BCFCU!

When you borrow from us, the interest you pay on your loan is circulated back into the local economy.

All PCA members are eligible to join the BCFCU!

Visit our website at www.coopcreditunion.com for more information and to download a loan application.



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Aloma D. Johnson Fruit Belt Community Charter School at Main and Jewett

About the Building: Interview with Bill Palladino of Ellicott Development

1.) What is the current lease agreement in regards to length of time? It could be 3 year, it could be 15. It is subject to the charter renewal.

2.) What are the biggest challenges you foresee with this property? It is an older building and we need to reutilize what is there, update, and stay within our set budget.

3.) Is the school the sole occupant of this building? Yes

4.) Were changes made to the building to accommodate the charter school or was it left as is?

It is mainly being left as is, but we are doing some cosmetic stuff: paint, tile, and a new elevator being added.

5.) What determines responsibility in regards to changes to the building? Are they the tenant's obligation or yours as the landlord? We have an improvement schedule in place. If the school wants to make additional changes or improvements, they can do so as needed. Larger projects will require prior permission.

6.) What is the parking situation for this property? Not plenty of parking is needed for a school, so we feel there is enough parking for what is needed.

7.) Is the space ADA compliant? Once the elevator is added, then it will be ADA compliant.

8.) As the landlord, are you providing janitorial services or does the school hire their own? The school will handle interior janitorial and Ellicott Development will handle the exterior care and landscaping.

9.) Being an older building, were there any hazardous materials that needed to be handled prior to the school opening? This was all handled by the prior ownership. We have not had any hazardous issues to deal with.

10.) What safety precautions are equipped in the building? Security measures will be in place; no one will be able to just walk in from the street. Ellicott Development also provides the necessary fire/smoke/carbon monoxide detection.

About the School: Interview with Ken Kruly, Financial Controller at Aloma D. Johnson Fruit Belt Community Charter School

1.) Where is the current charter school located and why are you moving to this new location?

We are currently at 833 Michigan Avenue and moving because we have outgrown our space. We wanted a larger building.

2.) What made you choose this location?

We analyzed the school's population to determine where many of our students are coming from and we wanted to find a spot that was geographically appropriate. We reviewed many locations and this spot worked in that regard, as well as cost and size.

3.) What grade levels? K-4

4.) What is the admission process? We are accepting applications now. It is an open application process, but we have an enrollment cap of 300. We are close to capacity, but not locked up yet. If additional applications come in beyond capacity, then we would follow a lottery system in accordance with state law.

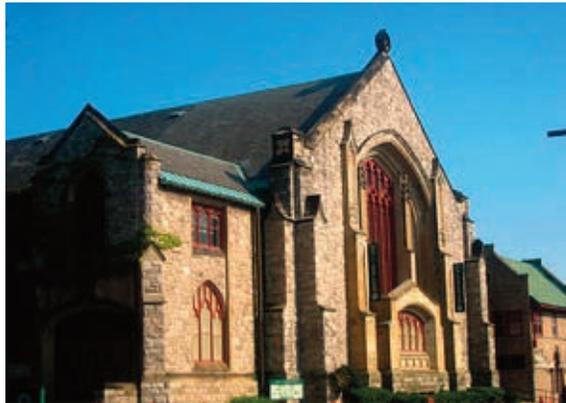
5.) What sets this charter school apart from others? I would refer you to our mission statement which can be found on our website, www.fruitbeltcharter.org.

6.) What safety precautions are in place? We are in the process of working out the logistics of this now and meeting with various vendors that are major firms within security to help us set up a security system.

7.) Who is on the Board of Trustees? [The following Trustees are listed on the school's website: Jerry Lidner, President; Jennifer Bialek, Secretary; Yvonne B. Evans, Treasurer; Michelle Elliott, John A. Johnson, Kevin D. Robinson, and Dr. Elizabeth Wright.]

8.) What is the background of the current principal? We currently have an interim director, Mike Sullivan. An active search for a new dean is in process and we are now reviewing applications. We will be accepting applications through the end of this month and next month will be undergoing interviews. It is possible Mike Sullivan will become permanent or it is possible we will hire someone new. We hope to have a permanent position by August when the school opens.

9.) Is there tutoring available before or after school? There are after-school services currently in place that will continue at our new location.



10.) Is transportation to the charter school available? We do have buses that bring kids in, some children walk, or parents drop off.

11.) Do you intend to incorporate the Parkside community (the zoo, architecture, etc.) into the educational experience? The staff and trustees are aware of the zoo and Darwin Martin House being in the neighborhood. At this point, we are heavily concentrating on getting in and once we settle we want to take advantage of the neighborhood offerings and map it out. We are happy to be involved with the Parkside neighborhood and hope to stay in contact with the Parkside Community Association.

12.) What are the school's long term goals? We would eventually like to offer nine grades, K-8. We also want to continue improving performance.

13.) Does your new location accommodate your goal to expand to nine grades? The building can likely accommodate this. At this point we are not populating the office building or Masonic lodge; perhaps we will have the opportunity to expand into those locations as we grow.

14.) What is your feeling towards your relationship with the leasing company and their improvement schedule? With this property being a school recently, not much is needed to change within the building—it is mainly cosmetic. We are going to utilize the basement space and convert it to additional classrooms and office space.

2013 Garden Tour Wrap Up and Tribute

The 2013 Parkside Garden Tour brought more than 400 visitors to our neighborhood to stroll the gardens and explore our unique outdoor living spaces on a fine June day.

Because the Parkside Garden Tour is organized, executed and staffed by volunteers (yourselves included), our expenses are amazingly low. The \$2,500 we raised helps us support PCA programs, events and parties.

We wholeheartedly appreciate the time, finances and sweat everyone expended in preparing your gardens, porches and decks for the tour. The Garden Tour is possible solely as a result of your dedication and persistence.

To this end, we'd like to give a heartfelt shout out to all those gardeners and volunteers who made the 16th Annual Parkside Garden Tour possible.

THANK YOU all very much. We hope to see you all next year!

Gardeners

W.C. Bailey and R.M. Kline
Thomas Riley and Gregory Alaimo
Mary Kontos and Tim Max
Ruth and David Lampe
Mark McGovern
Michael Beebe
Sheila and Steve Rovner
Phyllis and Ken Wells
Marybeth Hallmark
Sharon Shackelford
Andersen-Zanolli Family
Michael Walline
Tim Switalski
Connie and Steve Muscarella
Don and Elaine Clutterbuck
Christine Hentz
Nellie Gardner
Angela Jost
Marilyn Sozanski
Sandra Firmin
Tracy Woodruff and Mike Euler
Mary Jane Szydlowski and Frank Scheuttle
Carolyn A. Pierce
Elaine Martynkiewicz
Cydney Kelly and Rob Patterson
Jeanne Spampata
Len Mattie and Nancy Abramo
Holly Johnson and Brian Milbrand
Daniel Cadzow
Michael Evola
Vern Zimmerman
Darren Kempner
Michael and Catherine Pitek
Deborah & Augustus Young
Meredith Christman & Sean Slagle
Tore and Kristi Boeckmann
Thomas Mudra
Marilyn Barker
Pamela & Joel Rose
Susan Udin
Heather DiDomenico
Robin Muir
Pam Maglietto

Volunteers

Jan Barber
Kathy Boni
Irma Burns
George Emery
Sharon Fumanti
Marybeth Hallmark
David Hebert
Ben Johnson
Madame X
Pamela Martin
Mike O'Sullivan
Mike Riester
Maggie Shea
George Stock
Arlene Stone
David and Sue Udin
Bernie Wagner
Deb Wagner
Ron and Rosanne Wagner
Anne and Jim Wasmund
Bonnie Weinberger
Verne Zimmerman
Tom Ziobro



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Parkside Community Association New Member Form

Name(s) _____

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Please select a category:

- \$15 Student/Senior (62 and over)
- \$25 Household
- \$30 Business
- \$40 Washington Russell
- \$50 William Sidney Wicks
- \$75 Frank Lloyd Wright
- \$100 Frederick Law Olmsted
- \$125 Flint Hill
- \$150 Elam Jewett
- My employer matches charitable gifts.
I have enclosed my company's matching
gift form.

Please have someone contact me about the following
committee(s):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging in Place | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Block Club | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime/Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology/Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | |

The PCA is tax exempt. Your membership may be tax-deductible. Please make your membership check payable to the Parkside Community Association. Please return your membership check and this form to: Parkside Community Association, 2318 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214, or go to the PCA website and click on the "Join PCA" link. For convenience, you may use PayPal to pay membership dues online.