



Parkside Borough Hall



Parkside Fire Company

# THE PARKSIDER

“Raising the level of communication”



Parkside Elementary School



The Woodlot

**Vol. 4-3; Summer 2020**

## “I Love The Hearts Here In Parkside”

*By: Lisa Eckley Cocchiarale*

It hit me early on during the Covid pandemic shutdown that food pantries would be serving even more people. It also hit me that with people staying at home, they would not be donating as much. I chatted with Councilwoman Anna Guy and we concluded a food pick-up would be an easy way for residents to help.

Around the same time, a caring resident let Councilwoman Guy know about a neighbor’s family who were out of work and needed help.

After that first drive, and each one since, volunteers and I put together several bags or boxes from the donations to help that family. I, along with volunteers deliver the food. Volunteers include my husband and daughter; Sammie Saunders, Rosemarie Peascheck, Clancy, Melissa Culver, Kim Roman and her grandson, Daniel and Nin Bell.

We encourage anyone to reach out privately if they or someone they know needs food assistance and we will get food to them.

As someone whose family relied on food stamps when I was a kid, I know it can be very hard to ask for help. We are trying to make that easier.

Other concerned residents took it upon themselves to collect extra food and gift cards just for the Parkside family. These are dropped off to me and passed along to the family as well.

It is always good to “pay it forward” when we can. In addition to helping our Parkside family, we are rotating donations to various local food banks, all of which are open to anyone who needs help. These include Media Food Bank, Bernardine Center Food Cupboard, Chester East Side and the drive-through food program at REAL Church-Brookhaven.

I coordinate the donation pick-ups. If residents wish to donate, they can Facebook Private Message me their address and leave their bags on their porch or front step by 9a Monday mornings. I forward the list to the volunteer collecting for that day—certainly an easy way to help!

If someone has a gift card to a local grocery store, for example; or items specifically for our local family, they can let me know and we will ensure to get it to them.

“Parkside really is all in this together” during this time of struggle.



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## Meet Your Parkside Police Officers

In an effort to better acquaint Parkside residents with the police officers who protect them, *The Parksider* will be featuring the following Q & A with different members of the PPD, including:



### Police Officer David Barbone

Officer Barbone attended the evening class of the Police Academy in 2007. By January 2008 he was offered a part-time position at Parkside borough. In that same year, he became full-time with the Chester County Sheriff's Office and is a K9 handler with that department.

Officer Barbone is a Pennsylvania native. Due to responsibilities to the government, he moved several times in a twelve year period. Once he located permanently he was able to fulfill his goal of becoming a Police Officer.

"As a Police Officer", you encounter many situations, both good and bad", Barbone said. "It is important to properly deal with them as they happen".

One of the noteworthy incidents that come to mind was a call he was dispatched to for a drowning victim. Despite the joint effort of law enforcement and medics, it was not a positive outcome. The young boy did not survive. "I have been to many overdoses resulting in the administration of Narcan. On two occasions, I found out later that they both overdosed the night prior as well", he said.

"I try to combat these incidents with positive encounters with the public. And Parkside is a great community to do so. I get out of the car and talk to people. There is a mutual respect between the Police officers and the borough residents. I know many of them in some way, shape or form. They really are good people who live in the borough", Barbone said. "As a Police Officer, you wear many hats. You may be encountering someone on their worst day of their lives. People don't normally call the Police just to talk. You may not agree with how people live or the choices they make. My advice is to not make it

personal. Treat everyone the same way—with dignity, respect and professionalism", said Barbone.

His leisure time includes family, friends and sports. "I like to be mindful of my diet", he said. "If I didn't need to be aware of my health, I would eat pizza and cheesesteaks more often", said Barbone.

He does not have a "go-to-sitcom" he watches. "I watch a variety of shows", he said. His favorite pet is his dog, a Belgian Maliniis. "He keeps me busy", he said.

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### Borough Blurbs...

- A big thanks to Junior Council member Sarah Powers and Cathy and Rob Powers for the donation and planting of flowers in front of borough hall
- Another thanks goes out to Councilman Nick Capobianco for painting sign posts throughout the borough one early morning in early June
- And another big thank you being sent out to resident Dave Murphy—and son, John, who cleared branches from downed trees that blocked the woodlot path from a thunderstorm that passed through the borough:



- Vest-a-Cop awarded Parkside Police Department with a \$1,000.00 grant to be used for front and rear cages in the police vehicles
- Parkside "made the cut" for a \$114,250.00 grant from the 2020 Greenways Program to be used for additional pedestrian street lights on the Avenue, as well as lights, benches, a pine tree to be used for future holidays and planters in Wesley Cole Park
- Residential speed bumps and Edgmont Avenue's utility pole flags are missing this year due to lack of funding from the Covid pandemic. "We hope to have them back next year", said President Purcival. The borough has recorded 27 Covid-positive cases thus far this year
- Parkside Police has joined the "Ring Neighbors" app, a free service in conjunction with Ring security devices. "You do not need a Ring device to join Neighbors", said Officer Patrick Mckeown. "Anyone with a smartphone can download the Neighbors app to benefit

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## **Borough Blurbs continued--**

from updates and have the ability to post security-related photos or videos from any device”, said Mckeown. The service also permits you to see posts from other users as well as from municipal authorities. To download, text “jointoday” to 555888 or visit Google Play or the app store. “It is another opportunity for the police department to connect with residents and improve the safety of the community”, said Mckeown. Parkside Police can view what residents have posted and contribute with relevant updates or safety alerts to keep residents informed

- Parkside Police took delivery and placed into service a new front-line vehicle, a 2020 GMC Chevrolet Tahoe, taking the best interest rate from Chevrolet
- The Recreation Committee, chaired by Councilman Sweigart, organized a car parade on June 9 to recognize those residents graduating from Sun Valley High School. Congratulations to all of our graduated borough Seniors and good luck in your next journey

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## **FORD FITNESS TRAIL SEES COMPLETION**

The Woodlot revitalization has been completed, thanks to a \$119,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awarded the borough in 2019.

New lighting, landscaping and ten fitness stations were installed throughout the trail with physical fitness and good health at the forefront of the effort.

Borough Council hopes to announce a ribbon cutting event soon to officially bring the trail into service.

So, who exactly were “the Ford’s”, anyway? John Ford, Sr. and wife, Catherine, were residents who called Parkside “home” in the year 1919.

John Sr. was active in the creation of Parkside Fire Company that got a foothold in the borough that same year. He contributed countless volunteer hours to the fire company and served as Chief for many years. John was also the first member of the Penn Delco School Board.

Catherine served on the Parkside Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary and was its first member.

John and Catherine had two sons, Jack and Bill, both of whom took active roles in Parkside community involvement as well—just as their parents.

Jack was employed at Sun Oil Refinery and was an active member of Parkside Fire Company. He served in many positions, among which, was also Fire Chief, just as his Father many years earlier. “Jack, along with James Carroll, a good family friend and next door neighbor, started fire prevention in the area schools, building a “house of hazards”, which was a model home used to demonstrate how fire could spread throughout a home”, said Parkside resident,

Bill Ford, son of Bill. James was also a volunteer Parkside firefighter and was in charge of Sun Valley High School Band. Jack, like his father, John, was also a member of Parkside Borough Council and served as Council President for a time. “Jack served his entire life for the residents of Parkside”, said Bill. Bill Ford served in the United States Air Force. Upon serving his enlistment and relocating back to Parkside, Bill became an active firefighter for Parkside Fire Company. “My dad also became a coach for the youth programs in the borough”, said Bill. He was part of a group of men who started the Parkside Boy’s Club which offered boxing, basketball, football and baseball for the kids of Parkside”, said Bill. Over the years, Bill served as President of the program, supporting over 150 kids annually. “The football program became a top class program, winning many championships and who had players go on to play high school and college ball”, Bill said. Bill spent forty-five years in the Boy’s Club and oversaw the baseball teams that were sponsored by the club. He was also on the Recreation Committee of Borough Council. “He bled Parkside blood”, Bill said.

“These two men went about life to help their town. They were humble in their efforts and their actions would go unnoticed.”, Bill said.

Bill’s sister, Cathy Ford Powers, is the wife of Rob Powers, Parkside Fire Marshal and Health Inspector as well as lead Coordinator of the Parkside Emergency Management team.

Cathy served as Cheerleading Coach for seventeen years for the Boy’s Club. Both Bill and Rob both coached for the club as well.

Bill, Cathy and Rob have also been long-time residents of Parkside and have taken active roles in the community.



the late Bill Ford



1997 relic of Parkside Boy’s Club

## RESIDENTS RALLY FOR EQUALITY

Residents, concerned for racial justice, turned to the streets of Parkside on the evening of June 2, to peacefully demonstrate and stand together in solidarity.

Approximately residents, many of whom were Parkside residents, along with many young people, walked Edgmont Avenue and portions of neighborhoods—carrying their signs of demonstrated equality.

The group eventually gathered at Wesley Coale Park, in an effort to bring to front and center — brutality and injustice to people of color. The demonstration lasted about two hours.

Another demonstration was held on the evening of June 11 to advocate for justice and for Black Lives Matter.

As demonstrators continue to stand together, peacefully; advocating for equality, a third demonstration occurred on the evening of July 7. That demonstration took to the neighborhood streets along the east side, in a continued effort to unite and bring peace to today's environment.



## PAVING PROJECT ALERT

Borough Council wishes to alert residents on the west side of the borough to a paving project slated for August, weather permitting. The repaving project comes at a cost of \$55,000 which was budgeted for.

The project targets to repave the following streets:

- West Chelton Road between Edgmont Avenue and Norfolk Lane
- Crozer Street between Beechwood Road and Gray Street

The free, Public Depository Library, located in front of Parkside Fire Department, is full of assorted pleasure-reading. Be sure to pick-up a book or feel free to leave a few.

## PA Fireworks Law, Act 43 of 2017 Section 2404. Use of Consumer Fireworks

Parkside Police and the borough office have received numerous complaints in the past four to six weeks of fireworks being set off in the borough. Below is a friendly reminder of the laws pertaining to fireworks. **PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO B(5)**

- (a) **Conditions**—A person who is at least 18 years of age and meets the requirements of this article may purchase, possess and use consumer fireworks.
- (b) **Prohibitions**—A person may not intentionally ignite or discharge:
  - (1) Consumer fireworks on public or private property without the express permission of the owner.
  - (2) Consumer fireworks or sparkling devices within, or throw consumer fireworks or sparkling devices from a motor vehicle or building.
  - (3) Consumer fireworks or sparkling devices into or at a motor vehicle or building or at another person.
  - (4) Consumer fireworks or sparkling devices while the person is under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or another drug.
  - (5) Consumer fireworks within 150 feet of an occupied structure. "Occupied structure"—a structure, vehicle or place adapted for overnight accommodation of persons or for conducting business whether or not a person is actually present.

## RECREATION REPORT

Councilman Sweigert and the Recreation Committee were disappointed in having to cancel the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Kids Bike Parade and BBQ Lunch due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Planning continues for the annual Community Day, held at the end of each September. However, ongoing progress of the Covid situation will depend on whether the event must also be cancelled.

If your dog poops, but nobody is watching, you still must pick it up! **DOG WASTE TRANSMITS DISEASE AND CONTAMINATES DRINKING WATER...**

Child-safe gun locks are available through the Parkside PD and are free to all Parkside residents