



North Braddock News

Resident News From North Braddock Network

DECEMBER 2017

Volume 1, Number 8

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About The Newsletter:

North Braddock Network is a resident social media group that started in 2009. This is the final issue in our first volume since November 2016.

www.northbraddocknetwork.weebly.com

www.facebook.com/northbraddock

www.twitter.com/nbraddocknet

nfacebook1@gmail.com

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

North Braddock council will hold a reorganization meeting in January 2018. The date of the meeting has not been shared as of yet. Two council members will serve at their last meeting on December 19, 2017. The council will honor president Tim Bridge (Ward 1) for many years of service dedicated to the community. Manaya King (Ward 3) will also be honored at her last meeting for serving on council for numerous terms. New council-elect officials Teresa Parker (Ward 1) & Bridgette Cobbs (Ward 3) will be sworn into office for the four year term in January. Council will have to appoint a new president & vice-president of council along with designated committees. Residents can attend the final council meeting of the year on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 6:30pm. The reorganization meeting & January council meeting are open to the public. Let's review the recent general election results. The mayor and three council incumbents were re-elected to new four year terms.

ELECTION RESULTS - NOV. 7, 2017

Thomas Whyel (D) won Mayor

Diane Tomasic (D) won Tax Collector

Teresa Parker (D) & Jerome Sepesy (D) won Ward 1 Council

Victoria Vargo (D) & Christopher Roland (D) won Ward 2 Council

Bridgette Cobbs (D) won Ward 3 Council

Michael Belmonte (D)(R) & Akeya Kester (D)(R) won Woodland Hills School Board Region 3

Charles Martoni (D) won Allegheny County Council District 8



PROPOSED BUDGET SET FOR \$3.2 MILLION

The 2018 proposed budget by the borough manager is set for \$3,211,700. The proposed budget increases by a modest \$15,000 due to a re-balancing of budget revenues based on actual collections. 2018 expenditures and revenues mirror the 2017 spending plan. The real estate tax rate remains set at 11.00 mills. Taxes have not been increased in over 10 years. The budget will be discussed and voted on at the council meeting on December 19, 2017. Residents may review the budget and address any concerns.

Some accomplishments & activity shared by North Braddock Boro Manager Doug Marguriet for the current year.

- *Completed \$60,000 of emergency sewer & inlet repairs at numerous locations.
- *Paved Bell Avenue, Lydia Street and Taylor Street by utilizing borough, county and authority funding.
- *Completed rehabilitation of the Brinton Avenue playground funded through a state Greenways, Trails & Recreation program.
- *Completed the council chambers roof replacement.
- *Cleared and in some cases re-cleared brush and debris from 390 plus abandoned lots throughout the borough utilizing part time summer employees.
- *Secured approval from the County Vacant Property Program to acquire six (6) vacant lots on Hawkins Avenue to construct a new multi-use play area. Submitted a state grant application to offset play area improvements.
- *Demolished five (5) structures utilizing CDBG funds and by enforcing private party demolitions. Seven additional emergency demolitions are funded and should be completed this year.
- *Code enforcement issued 180 code enforcement letters of violation, 475 occupancy/rental permits and 17 building permits. Generated in excess of \$27,000 in fees offsetting more than 50% of the cost of code enforcement.
- *Police department projects it will respond to over 6,000 service calls by the end of 2017. The department upgraded security cameras and computer systems within the department. The police towed over 140 abandoned vehicles year to date.

RESIDENTS CAN REVIEW THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MANAGER'S OFFICE ON THE BUDGET PAGE LOCATED ON THE NETWORK WEBSITE

<https://northbraddocknetwork.weebly.com/budget.html>




BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The North Braddock Garden Club organized the 2nd Annual Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 9, 2017. The event was moved to the North Braddock Heights Recreation Building due to the fire station construction on Wolfe Avenue. Santa made his way around some of the local streets with the fire department before arriving at the breakfast event. Breakfast was served and every child was able to meet with Santa for pictures. The green thumb volunteers also offered holiday poinsettia plants and t-shirts for fundraising efforts. Toys were collected for local kids. Pictures shared from the [North Braddock Garden Club Facebook](#).




CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNITY LUMINARIAS


**NORTH BRADDOCK
CHRISTMAS EVE
LUMINARIAS**



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY WITH
TRADITIONAL LUMINARIA CANDLES
PLACED INSIDE BAGS AND SETUP ALONG
THE SIDEWALKS AFTER SUNSET ON
CHRISTMAS EVE



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
& TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!**



Light up North Braddock with joy & cheer on Christmas Eve. Celebrate the holiday with traditional luminaria candles placed inside bags and setup along the sidewalk after sunset on Christmas Eve. Luminary kits are often sold by nearby communities for a fundraiser in Swissvale & Edgewood. Residents can make your own kits with sand, brown bags, & candles. Help expand this tradition across all three neighborhood wards in North Braddock. Merry Christmas to all & to all a good night!



WINTER WEATHER TIPS



Basic tips during the winter weather months:

- Never leave vehicles unattended to warm up
- Never blow or shovel snow into the public street
- Use off street parking if available for salt trucks to have better street access
- Clear all sidewalks & steps for pedestrians & mail carriers
- Check on elderly neighbors during extreme cold weather
- Have furnaces checked & practice safety first when using space heaters & other heat sources

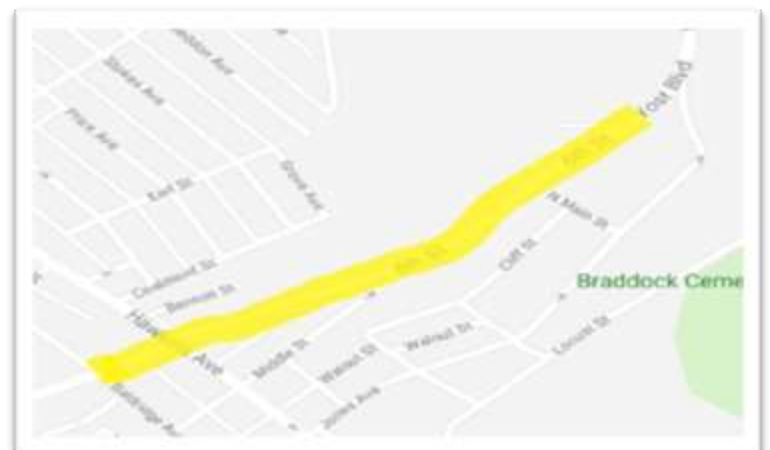
CREATING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The joint comprehensive plan is a work in progress with participants from Braddock, North Braddock, & East Pittsburgh. The project is not a community merger. Meetings are ongoing with community members and interested residents may participate in the proceedings. Contact council member Vicki Vargo (Ward 2) if you are interested in acquiring more information about the meetings and anything related to the joint comprehensive plan.



6TH STREET RECONSTRUCTION

A CITF grant was approved for the reconstruction of Sixth Street. The street surface is in deficient condition for drivers. Street paving is planned between Yost Blvd & Baldrige Avenue. The project will be placed out for bid and completed in the early spring.



FIRE STATION FACELIFT

Progress is moving forward on the Wolfe Avenue fire station thanks to a CITF grant. The brick work is completed and the new entry door was installed on the right side. New garage doors will be added. You'll notice the one door was made wider for better accessibility. A walk in freezer will be an added addition for fundraising capabilities.



POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED



<http://www.summerforpa.com/>

Summer Lee is 30 years old and grew up in North Braddock. She graduated from Woodland Hills High School and is a law graduate from Howard University. She serves on the Woodland Hills Commission On Youth Development & Learning and helped organize campaigns for new school directors including Akeya Kester. Summer announced she is running for the State Representative seat in District 34 against longtime incumbent Paul Costa in the May 2018 election. Costa has held the state seat for 19 years and moved his office to Braddock Avenue in the last few years.

RESIDENT WEBSITE

Check out the [North Braddock Network](http://northbraddocknetwork.weebly.com/) website created & maintained by volunteer residents. Information pages include administration, budget, ordinances & zoning, history, change initiatives, resident guides, visitor guide, business directory, gas fracking, trash & recycling, maps, events, newsletter, public safety agencies, crime watch, street department, high school sports, hometown athletes, little league baseball, media, links, etc. There's a wealth of information for all residents on this website.

<http://northbraddocknetwork.weebly.com/>



HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT

There definitely is potential in the old housing stock in North Braddock. A Wolfe Avenue bungalow style home built in 1910 was purchased at a low price and underwent a full renovation by a new resident. The 107 year old home was gutted & rebuilt inside, added an addition, new rear deck, new front entrance, new landscaping, renovated the detached garage, etc. Shout out to Gaydos Construction on the renovation.

The county's Vacant Property Program is also an asset to the community. North Braddock Cares hopes to work with boro officials to improve ways to inform the public on available vacant properties & how to get assistance in obtaining them. Stay tuned for more info for a vacant property community event with North Braddock Cares in Spring 2018.

Remember to immediately report anyone stealing aluminum siding or copper pipes from a vacant building. Report any suspicious activity to 911.



**Report suspicious activity
around vacant buildings to the
police by dialing 9-1-1**

**Help prevent the theft of
property**



**Many buildings are available for
affordable value to rehabilitate**

**North Braddock Cares plans to
hold an event in 2018 to
promote the available vacant
properties in the community**

GAS DRILLING AT ET STEEL WORKS

North Braddock residents recently learned about a proposal for gas drilling at the US Steel Edgar Thomson Works property in North Versailles. Residents began to ask questions at the November council meeting.

The boro manager confirmed that North Braddock was invited to a meeting regarding the project. The drilling pad would be in North Versailles Township on the steel plant property and the permit process will be in control of North Versailles. Lateral drilling lines could extend underground into North Braddock. Therefore the boro and property owners could gain revenue thru impact fees and other revenue from underground drilling lines. This project is planned to offset costs for the steel industry. The gas supply would be used at the steel plant facility to remain active for the future.

Some boro administration seemed to be in favor of the project for additional revenue in order to prevent tax increases. A few non-resident boro property owners shared support for gas drilling. They see opportunity to bring revenue into a struggling area and for the steel industry to remain open with local jobs.

The North Braddock zoning ordinance permits gas drilling in the industrial zone. Many questions remain unanswered if surrounding towns can take any action against the project if lateral drilling is running thru various jurisdictions. Many residents opposed gas drilling at the Grand View Golf Course in the past and resulted in council prohibiting fracking in the residential zone at the golf course.

[North Braddock Residents For Our Future](#) learned that Merrion Oil & Gas shared an application with North Versailles to build the unconventional oil & gas well at the Edgar Thomson steel site. The permitting phase can take up to twelve months with the DEP. All communities within a 3,000 foot radius must be notified of the project. North Braddock residents are acquiring more information on the project and town hall meetings are apparently planned by the gas company in the future. Stay tuned for more details as this process moves forward.



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

SCHLEIFER FUNERAL CHAPEL

534 Jones Avenue

North Braddock, PA 15104

412.271.1361

<http://www.schleiferfuneralchapel.com/>



Schleifer Funeral Chapel owned by Theodore Schleifer continues the tradition of the funeral business at 534 Jones Avenue. The historic old home sits at the corner of Bell & Jones and was once the Albert G. Lesko Funeral Home before becoming the Ronald V. Lucas Funeral Home. Teddy Schleifer has been active in community events and a member of the Enterprise Zone in Braddock. Check out the funeral chapel website for more detailed information.

Schleifer Funeral Chapel has a goal to provide the best service at one of the worst times. The caring and experienced professionals at Schleifer Funeral Chapel are there to support you through the difficult time. They offer a range of personalized services to suit your family's wishes and requirements. You can count on them to help you plan a personal, lasting tribute to your loved one. They'll carefully guide you through the many decisions that must be made during this challenging time.

The public is welcome to call the funeral home at any time of the day, any day of the week, for immediate assistance. Or, visit the funeral home in person at your convenience. They also provide information on the website so you can learn more about the business & services offered.

BUSINESS MISSION STATEMENT:

“At Schliefer Funeral Chapel, it is our sincere desire, during the time of your great sorrow, to serve you in a manner which will lighten your burden. We are dedicated to serving all people regardless of race, religion, color or creed in a manner that will leave a lasting, positive memory at such a difficult time, the passing of a loved one. We further guarantee that all families that call on us will be served within their financial means. We are committed to serving ALL families regardless of financial limitations.”



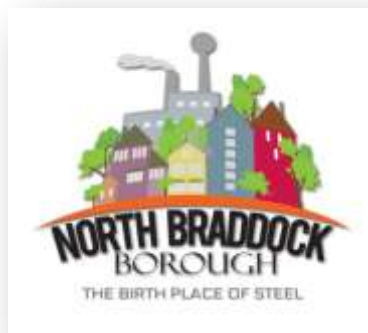
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*From The Birth Place Of Steel
North Braddock, Pennsylvania*

Wishing all of the residents, former residents, neighbors, & friends a happy holiday in the birth place of steel. Have a joyous & safe holiday season and a happy new year!

View the North Braddock Holidays Video:

https://youtu.be/PH_G5Dq3QaI



**North Braddock Is The Home Of
*Historic Braddock's Battlefield**

***Birth Place Of Steel At Edgar Thomson Steel Works**

***Amazing Scenic Views At Grand View Golf Club**

***Pittsburgh's Ultimate Pizza At Vincent's Pizza Park**

***East Shore Pittsburgh Community**

***Live Well Allegheny County Community**

**NORTH BRADDOCK DIRECTORY
600 ANDERSON STREET
NORTH BRADDOCK, PA 15104**

**Manager – Doug Marguriet
(412) 271-1306
nbmgr@comcast.net**

**Mayor – Tom Whyel
(412) 271-2262
tdwhyel@verizon.net**

**Police Chief – Dean Bazzone
(412) 351-4902
nbpolice@comcast.net**

**Fire Chief – Anthony Rydzak
(412) 824-7791
arydzak@station207.com**

**Code Official – Dave Andrews
(412) 271-0832
nbcodes@gmail.com**

**Street Dept. – Charles Nigro
(412) 271-3647**

**Tax Collector – Diane Tomasic
(412) 351-5500**

**Animal Control – Sable Kennel
(412) 660-2350**

**Magistrate – Scott Schricker
(412) 824-6201**

**Braddock Carnegie Library
(412) 351-5357**

**US Post Office – Braddock
Office
(412) 271-4165**

**Woodland Hills School District
(412) 731-1300**

**BIG's Sanitation Collection
(724) 379-4331**

**Duquesne Light Company
(412) 393-7000 (Emergency)**

**Peoples Gas Company
1-800-400-4271 (Emergency)**

**Wilksburg Penn Joint Water
(412) 243-6200**

**POLICE, FIRE, EMS
911**

UPCOMING CALENDAR:

Council Monthly Meetings

600 Anderson Street, Municipal Building
Tuesday, December 19, 7:00 PM
Tuesday, January 16, 7:00PM

Council Reorganization Meeting

600 Anderson Street, Municipal Building
January 2018, Date To Be Announced

NB Cares Monthly Meetings

600 Anderson Street, Municipal Building
Last Monday of Each Month, 6:30 PM

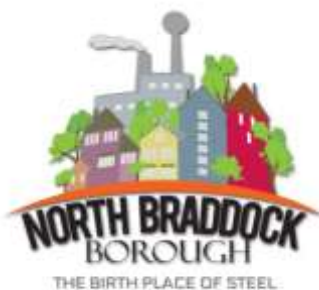
Woodland Hills School District Meetings

531 Jones Avenue, Administration Building
January 10, 7:00 PM, Agenda Meeting
January 17, 7:00 PM, Legislative Meeting

NBVFD Lenten Fish Fry

1318 Wolfe Avenue, Station #1
February 14 & Every Friday during Lent
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Email any suggestions for future articles and let us know if you would like to contribute to the publication.
nbfacebook1@gmail.com



The boro website is being updated with a contracted webmaster. A new boro logo was revealed to promote the birth place of steel.

www.northbraddockborough.com

Congratulations to Vincent's Pizza Park being named Pittsburgh's Ultimate Pizza destination by the <https://theincline.com/>. The local family owned pizza shop defeated 31 pizza businesses in the region.

VINNIE PIES ARE #1



The Amelia Roman case remains unsolved on Jones Avenue since February 15, 2016. A \$5,000 reward was offered by the news media. Call Allegheny County Police with tips at **1-833-ALL-TIPS**