



Parkside News

Parkside Community Association

FALL 2023

PARKSIDEBUFFALO.ORG

This past year the Parkside Community Association celebrated its 60th anniversary. Neighbors gathered together on a lovely September day in Delaware Park to meet new Parkside residents, to reminisce of days past, delight in the many pleasures of today, and recommit to the vision of our founding members for the future:

The PCA was organized in 1963 to fight the negative changes in the community. The PCA aimed at encouraging communication, integration, and community pride. The association focused on preserving and improving the existing housing, by working with homeowners, absentee landlords, and city building inspectors, and on reminding residents of the benefits of urban living close to the City's premiere park and cultural attractions. As a result of the association's efforts, Parkside became a stable and diverse neighborhood of residents proud to call its curving, tree lined streets and comfortable houses their home.

In continuing this tradition of service to the community, we ask that you consider volunteering your time and talent! There are several openings for new members on the Board of Directors. We are looking to bring in a collection of people with diverse skills and backgrounds to enhance and benefit the Parkside neighborhood. Please consider this opportunity to make a difference! Email board@parksidebuffalo.org today for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

We welcome everyone to attend the Parkside Community Association's Annual Meeting on January 16, 2024. This is an opportunity to see firsthand all that the PCA has accomplished the past year, and to recognize the work that contributes to Parkside's success. We are excited to announce that our featured speaker this year will be from the Buffalo Museum of Science to prepare us for the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. Of course, it's fitting that our meeting is held at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 96 Jewett Parkway:

In 1887, Elam Jewett, a devout Episcopalian, donated a parcel of land from his Willowlawn estate and \$10,000 to build The Church of the Good Shepherd. Jewett hoped that this church would give the fledgling Parkside community a central meeting place as well as a place of worship.

As we near the end of 2023 and the holiday season is upon us, we take time to express our gratitude and appreciation to past board members, directors, executive teams, staff, and volunteers who have selflessly contributed to the place we call home, a place called Parkside.

Sincerely,

The PCA Board of Directors

Hodgson Russ LLP is proud to support
the **Parkside Community Association**,
which has preserved, improved, and
empowered their community,
and our city as a whole,
for over 60 years.



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Community Announcements

Upcoming Events

The PCA is excited to announce these family-friendly events in early 2024! Visit parksidebuffalo.org for more details as they become available.

PCA Annual Meeting: January 16, 2024, Church of the Good Shephard
Chili Cookoff: date coming soon!



Tech Updates at the PCA

Have you noticed our new email, admin@parksidebuffalo.org? The PCA has teamed up with Google for Nonprofits to update our technology platform. Don't forget to update your email contacts with our new primary address!

Call for Snow Angels

The Parkside Snow Angels have completed our seventh winter of providing volunteers to clear the snow from the sidewalks, front steps, and porches of our neighbors who need assistance. Last year, our 20 volunteers helped out 20 households. We also provided free ice melt compound for many of the neighbors. The Snow Angel program is a free service of the Parkside Community Association.

We need a few more volunteers to meet the increased need this year. Please contact the PCA or susan.udin@gmail.com if you'd like to be a Snow Angel.



Community Advocacy

The PCA Advocacy Committee relaunched this year with a town hall meeting in June. Prior to that meeting, the PCA sought input from the community on discussion topics through an electronic survey. The community then discussed the top issues, including social connections, community engagement, architecture and home maintenance, traffic, and sanitation, as well as many other topics in an open forum meeting. Based on community sentiment, the PCA has taken action on many concerns.

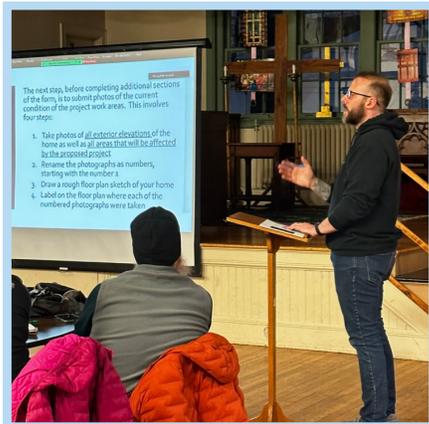
What has the PCA been up to?

Join us in looking back at events in the neighborhood since our last newsletter. If you have ideas for future events, please contact the PCA at admin@parksidebuffalo.org.

PCA 60th Anniversary Celebration

The PCA turned 60 in 2023. The PCA, founded in 1963, fosters a neighborhood that welcomes people of all races, economic status, family types, and religious affiliation. To celebrate, we had an anniversary party at the Lodge at Delaware Park on Sept. 23. About 60 people attended, with an age range from toddlers to Parksiders in their eighties, and with people who've lived for a wide range of time in the neighborhood, from just a few weeks to over fifty years.

The event featured a buffet catered by Resurgence Brewery, a slide show of PCA activities, cornhole, and a basket raffle of useful and entertaining items including a weekend in the Adirondacks and a dinner/tour combination at the Martin House.



Historic Tax Credit Workshop

The PCA continues to provide neighborhood homeowners with the information and resources needed to claim the Historic Homeownership Tax Credit, which provides a 20% tax credit for all qualified rehabilitation expenses. In March, the PCA presented an in-person tax credit workshop, and the recording of that workshop is available at parksidebuffalo.org. The website also provides a detailed step-by-step guide for claiming the tax credit. If members need additional support, the PCA regularly provides additional guidance on a per-request basis.

Free Bikes for Community Members

This summer, the PCA partnered with GOBike Buffalo and served as a distribution point to give away free rehabilitated bikes to residents of Parkside and the surrounding community. The PCA was able to successfully distribute all but one of these bikes on a needs basis. The one remaining bike is pictured at right; please reach out if you or someone you know are interested in the bike. The PCA is also trained and able to perform basic repairs to make sure that these bikes stay on the road: flat tire, broken chain, brake adjustment, No Problem!



What Has the PCA Been Up To? (cont.)

PCA Re-Tree Event

26 Parksiders collaborated with Re-Tree WNY to maintain and strengthen the tree canopy of the neighborhood.

Led by Adam Zyglis, the hearty team of volunteers organized the planting of 30 trees in the neighborhood on November 4th. Consisting of 10 species of trees, planted on seven streets, the efforts will beautify the neighborhood for years to come.



Benefits of tree planting include cooling streets and front yards; habitat and food for animals; improving property values; cleaning the air, along with augmenting the beauty of nature outside our front doors.

We'd like to make the tree planting project an annual event with your help. A big thank you to all the volunteers who carried a shovel, dug some dirt, and pounded a stake into the ground. Parksiders are the best!



Annual Halloween Party

The PCA had a great time hosting its annual Halloween party this year! We had a great turn out from neighbors, volunteers and local officials at the Church of the Good Shepherd. It is a free and open event.

Parkside Community Association 2023 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Vice President Sue Phibbs
Second Vice President Patrick Miller
Secretary Susan Udin
Treasurer Matthew Pelkey
Asst Treasurer Danielle Baranowski

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Earl Cantwell
Daniel van der Zee
David Bolz
Gerry Durak
Jonathan Gorczyca
Melanie Jaskolka

There are multiple opportunities for new board members to support our community in 2024 and beyond - see the next page for details!

Call for Board and Committee Membership

The PCA is looking for new board and committee members to help us continue our mission to advocate, communicate and act on behalf of the Parkside neighborhood to preserve and enhance the quality of life. As the largest membership-based community organization in the city of Buffalo, we rely on our board and committees to drive the programming you know and love, like bike giveaways, tree planting, Movies in the Meadow, the Chili Cookoff, and much more.

Board members serve three-year terms and are generally inducted at the Annual Meeting in January; the commitment is a few hours per month, including a monthly board meeting. Committees accept members on an ongoing basis; commitments vary based on member availability. While all board members are on at least one committee, we also welcome non-board participation from the community for our Advocacy, Membership, and Events committees.

If you have a love of Parkside and our mission, we'd love to have you join us! Skills in fundraising, event planning, and nonprofit operations are helpful but not required. Please email eboard@parksidebuffalo.org to learn more, or reach out to any existing board member.

Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House



The Statler Café is now open 11am - 5pm daily.

Grab + Go Food
Locally Sourced Snacks + Treats
Hot + Cold Beverages



All are welcome!



PCA Business District - A Decade Later

It's hard to believe that it's been nearly a decade since my wife and I first moved to Parkside. While this is a short time in the overall history of our neighborhood, it's enough to have seen some incredible progress. This is particularly so with our business district along Parkside Avenue.

What was once a struggling commercial strip filled with vacancies, is now a thriving part of our great community. That didn't just happen by chance. It took the blood, sweat, and tears of neighbors. First, Len Mattie and Nancy Abramo invested countless hours and dollars in rehabbing what is now the Parkside Meadow. It became an anchor for neighbors to congregate. It hosted the happy hour where several of us recognized the need for a stable anchor on the other corner of Russell—a meeting that would ultimately result in Buffalo's first community owned café, JAM Parkside.

To help bolster the interest by neighbors the PCA helped by organizing the Artisan Market series—closing the road to traffic, hosting dozens of local vendors, and encouraging neighbors to reclaim the space as their own. One of those vendors was Buffalo Seamery—a prominent storefront now calling Parkside home. Alice Ever After would follow shortly thereafter and would bring a whimsy seldom matched by any store in WNY. Making Waves would eventually add an artistic splash, the Beard Chic and LashLovee are there for all of your grooming needs, and Fairy Cakes remains a staple for those in search of confectionary treats.

From jam tarts during COVID, to hot cocoa bombs during snow storms, to drag story time and wing night—each business has contributed to this place we call home and help make Parkside an even more vibrant community.

-Matthew Pelkey, PCA Treasurer

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716-551-6943



2318 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14214

Appeal for Support: Help Us Help Parkside

It is only through the generous contributions of our members that the PCA can continue to pursue its mission to advocate, communicate, and act on behalf of our Parkside neighborhood. The PCA serves as the voice of a diverse community and provides leadership to promote a safe, vibrant and historic neighborhood. By communicating residents' concerns and encouraging business development, the PCA helps to foster neighborhood revitalization, beautification and sustainability.

The activities highlighted in this newsletter are just a small sample of what the PCA accomplished in 2023. **We need your help to continue to offer these programs and neighborhood support.**

Please consider contributing to the PCA's Annual Appeal using the form below, or online at parksidebuffalo.org. Your contributions make all the difference.

Annual Appeal

Cut out below



Yes, I wish to support the work of the Parkside Community Association. My donation for the 2024 Annual Appeal is enclosed:

- \$50
- \$75
- \$100
- \$150
- \$200
- \$250
- Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please detach and return with a check payable to "Parkside Community Association" in the enclosed envelope or visit us at parksidebuffalo.org to make your donation online.



Unless otherwise requested, Annual Appeal donations are separate from membership dues.