


EDGEWOOD

July/August 2025

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF EDGEWOOD BOROUGH



2025 EDGEWOOD BOROUGH COMMUNITY DAY SAT AUG 23

KOENIG FIELD

1-10 pm: CRAFT VENDORS • GAMES

LIVE MUSIC • FIREWORKS

FOOD TRUCKS

VFD BEER GARDEN & PULLED PORK

8 am-12 pm: Community Yard Sale



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Boy Scout Troop 23 & Cub Scout Pack 23

SUMMER BREAK

Edgewood Troop/Pack 23 is taking a break from their weekly meetings for the summer, starting in June. Meetings will resume at the end of August.

Email: edgewoodcubscoutpack23@gmail.com, or check out Edgewood Cub Scout Pack 23 on Facebook



From The Manager's Desk

Block Party Permits

S

ummer is in full swing now and from time to time residents like to get together for a block party. The borough generally accommodates the closing of a street so long as there is an acceptable detour on an adjacent street and the event is scheduled over the weekend. We ask that anyone wishing to hold a party on their street or block to please complete an Application for Block Party Permit, available on the borough website Edgewood.pgh.pa.us. Completing and returning this form allows us to assess any safety concerns around closing streets.

The borough requires those wishing to hold a block party to set up and take down barricades provided by the borough's public works department. DPW staff will deliver barricades to the nearest intersection of the block party on Friday and retrieved Monday morning from the same location. There is a \$100 refundable deposit due with the application which is held until the barricades are returned. The requestor is responsible for the condition and safe keeping of barricades until they are retrieved. Barricades should be returned in the condition in which they were received. Applications must be submitted 14 days prior to the event date.

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Edgewood Borough Police Department

WE HAVE A NEW LOOK!

With the purchase of a new police SUV in July of 2024, it was time to transform the look of our fleet.

Our police vehicles have had the same appearance for over 15 years. While Edgewood Police vehicles are set apart from the crowd, it was time to modernize the design. The word "POLICE" is boldly stated across the side of the car making it stand out in a crowd. All the graphics are reflective, making the vehicle stand out at night, thus making it safer for officers. The phrase "see something, say something" has been added to the rear side windows. This message encourages anyone that witnesses or feels something is not right, to please call police. Unfortunately, many in small town communities are afraid to call 911, feeling that an issue may not be an emergency. Please know that 911 will always take your phone call and advise officers. No call is insignificant or minor, and we as the police are here to serve and protect the community.

In all, three police SUV's have the new graphics, one unmarked vehicle, and one vehicle will be replaced next year with the new look.



Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department

We want to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who purchased tickets for our recent Cash Bash fundraiser. Your generosity provided a much-needed infusion of funding that helps keep our operation running. As a **100% volunteer fire department**, every dollar counts—and every dollar stays right here in Edgewood.

We're on pace to surpass **800 calls in 2025**. These calls don't wait for good weather, convenient hours, or calm days. They come during holidays, family dinners, and at 3 a.m. during thunderstorms. And every time, our members show up—trained, ready, and committed.

Our firefighters are **your neighbors**: parents, professionals, students—people with families and day jobs who still make time to fight fires, free victims from vehicle wrecks, and provide life-saving emergency care.

We need more people like that. **We need you.**

If you've ever thought about stepping up, now is the time. Visit **www.edgewoodfire.org** to learn how you can volunteer. If you'd like to support us financially, we welcome donations at **hello@edgewoodfire.org**. This community is worth it. Help us protect it.

Edgewood Community Day is right around the corner, and the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department is proud to be part of the celebration once again!

We'll be firing up the grills and serving our **famous pork sandwiches**—slow cooked, seasoned just right, and served with all the fixings. You'll also find us running the **beer garden**, stocked with local brews and staffed by our very own volunteers. All proceeds directly support the fire department, helping us maintain equipment, provide training, and continue protecting the community.

So come out, grab a sandwich, raise a glass, and support your local fire department. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

POLICE ACTIVITY				
PART I CRIMES				
	MAR.	APR.	YTD	
Homicide	0	0	0	
Rape	0	0	0	
Robbery	0	0	0	
Assaults (simple/aggravated)	4	0	5	
Burglary	0	0	0	
Larceny/theft				
Shoplifting	7	10	24	
Other	2	3	5	
Motor vehicle theft	1	2	3	
Arson	0	0	0	
TOTAL - PART I	14	15	37	
PART II CRIMES				
Liquor laws	0	0	0	
Vandalism/criminal mischief	0	4	4	
Weapons offenses	0	0	1	
Sex offenses	0	0	0	
Narcotics offenses	1	0	3	
DUI	5	3	11	
Disorderly conduct	0	2	2	
All other offenses	4	3	15	
Total - PART II	10	12	36	
GRAND TOTAL (P1&P2)	24	27	73	
Adult arrests	14	11	42	
Juvenile arrests	0	0	0	
Total arrests	14	11	42	
Incidents/calls	342	318	1218	
Animal complaints	1	1	2	
Agency assist (Police & Fire)	9	8	25	
PART I CRIMES	14	15	37	
PART II CRIMES	10	12	36	
Domestic complaints	2	0	6	
Juvenile contacts/complaints	3	0	4	
Miscellaneous reports	243	230	918	
Police reports filed	99	88	300	
False alarms	7	5	20	
Public nuisance/disturbances	6	8	18	
Suspicious person/incidents	13	8	37	
Missing person	0	0	0	
Medical assists	6	8	27	
Traffic related				
Fatal accidents	0	0	0	
Reportable accidents	3	2	6	
Non-reportable accidents	12	6	31	
Traffic stops conducted	63	129	260	
Traffic citations	44	91	173	
Non-traffic citations	0	3	3	
Parking tags	114	240	515	
GRAND TOTAL-ALL CALLS	1005	1183	3678	

AN UPDATE FROM CONGRESSMAN CHRIS DELUZIO

Keeping Up the Fight Against Corruption

In my last update, I shared how I'm working hard to root out corruption in our government by banning Members of Congress from trading stocks while in office. Americans can smell the rot of corruption. We hate how it hurts all of us when public officials use their offices for personal gain. It's swampy nonsense, and it has to stop.

Now, I'm proud to continue my fight against corruption with new legislation I've introduced. It would ban corporate executive crooks who have been convicted of financial crimes or corruption from serving in the Executive Branch of our government. That means any federal agency or White House offices.

The *No Corporate Crooks Act* is a simple, two-page bill. It says that if you've been convicted of crimes like bribery, embezzlement, fraud, or insider trading, then you should have no place in high executive office. Corporate criminals shouldn't be let anywhere near the levers of power in our government.

Corporate power has corrupted our government through its dark money in our elections and more. They rig the system in their favor and against the American people. This corruption is shredding what's left of Americans' confidence in our government's ability to deliver for the Common Good.

Western PA is a place where we believe if you work hard and play by the rules, you ought to have a shot at the American Dream. We've got to get back on track to restoring that promise. A big part of that is rooting out corruption—and stopping corporate criminals from taking power *inside the government itself* is a great start.

Let's get this done and help deliver a government of, by, and for the People.

Want to learn more about my work in Congress? Sign up for my e-newsletter at <https://deluzio.house.gov/contact/newsletter-subscribe>, or follow me @RepDeluzio on Facebook and other social media websites. My office also provides casework services for constituents in Edgewood and beyond who need help with a federal agency like Social Security, the IRS, or the VA. Please get in touch with my office and we will do all we can to help—you can give us a call at 412-344-5583.

Very respectfully,

Christopher R. Deluzio

Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Congressman Chris Deluzio
(PA-17)
<https://deluzio.house.gov/>

Please note, this update provided by Congressman DeLuzio is intended to inform constituents of what's happening now in PA State government, including currently proposed legislation. Edgewood Borough does not endorse any political party, candidate, or policy.

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Mark your calendars for Edgewood Community Day on Saturday, August 23 at Koenig Field! We'll have food vendors, artist booths, community groups, entertainment, games, and more, starting at 1 p.m. The day ends with music from the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra and a fantastic fireworks display!

VENDORS WANTED! If you are a food or market vendor interested in participating in this event, please complete and return a Vendor Application Form as soon as possible (available on our website, edgewood.pgh.pa.us). Space is limited, so please act quickly!

Mail to: Borough Building Administrative Office, Attn: Community Day
2 Race Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Email: Abigail Ault, Assistant Manager office@edgewoodboro.com



Our Annual Community Yard Sale will take place from resident homes from 8 a.m.-12 p.m., prior to the field event. If you would like to have your address added to the list of participating homes, please email office@edgewoodboro.com. You may include a brief list of featured items (optional). The list, as well as a map, will be shared on our website and Facebook page closer to the event.

For questions about the Yard Sale, or any general questions about Community Day, please call 412-242-4824, or email office@edgewoodboro.com.

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



Edgewood Newcomers' Reception

Each year, the Edgewood Foundation sponsors a reception for newcomers who have moved into the Borough in the preceding year. This event is our way of formally welcoming them into the neighborhood and to introduce them to, not only their other fellow newcomers, but also Borough officials and other involved citizens and members of the local organizations. The reception is hosted at the Edgewood Train Station in the early evening, with refreshments and beverages being provided. The reception allows newcomers the opportunity to meet and socialize with their fellow residents, while also obtaining important information from each of the Borough offices,

community groups and local businesses. This is one of the signature events of the Foundation and is a major reason why Edgewood continues to be a special place to live. This year's Newcomers' Reception will be on Thursday evening, September 18, starting at 6 p.m., so Save the Date! Invitations will be sent out in mid-August to all newcomers based upon available real estate transfer information. However, if you know a newcomer who did not receive an invitation or you are a newcomer interested in attending, please visit our website at www.edgewoodfoundation.org for additional information and also feel free to RSVP to us at newcomers@edgewoodfoundation.org. The event also has a Facebook page, that can be accessed in the Event Details posted into the calendar on our website.

EDGEWOOD BOROUGH PRESENTS:

FRIDAY, JULY 25TH
FREE at Koenig Field

Movie starts at dusk (about 9 pm) but come early to practice some REAL Kung Fu and enjoy a demonstration by Shaolin Studios.

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MOVIE IN THE PARK AT KOENIG FIELD

Sponsored by Shaolin Studios

Friday, JULY 25—'Kung Fu Panda' (2008)

Edgewood Borough and Shaolin Studios present, 'Kung Fu Panda.' This first installment of the popular animated franchise is family-friendly and rated PG. Everyone is welcome to the field before the movie to practice some real Kung Fu!

Additionally, before the movie at 1:11, Juice Truck will be joining us!

The movie will start at dusk*. Don't forget to bring your blankets/chairs. All Koenig Field rules must be followed. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please check our Facebook page, Edgewood Borough Community Events, for updates and additional information.

Movie in the Park / Sleepover in the Park

Saturday, September 6 (into Sunday, September 7), 'A Minecraft Movie'

Edgewood Borough presents 'A Minecraft Movie' (2025), for our last summer feature. This film is full of silly humor and is rated PG (note, there is some mild profanity). Stick around for the Edgewood Foundation's 'Sleepover in the Park!' We're teaming up to bring you this special event on Saturday, September 6 (into Sunday, September 7).

Starting at 7 p.m., set up your tents, plus blankets/chairs and enjoy the movie (starting at dusk*), along with snacks provided by the Foundation, and stay all night in the park! Donuts, juice, and coffee will be available in the morning for those who stay.

All Koenig Field rules must be followed. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please check our Facebook page, Edgewood Borough Community Events, for updates and additional information. For questions regarding the Sleepover event, please contact the Edgewood Foundation (edgewoodfoundation.org).

**Please note that the start time for each movie varies, based on the time of sunset and possible cloud cover. Most movies start approximately 8:30-9. We want to ensure adequate darkness for best visibility of the film.*



SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS will be at 10 a.m. in the Gathering Place for the months of June, July, and August.

Food Pantry

Wilkesburg Community Ministry Mobile Food Pantry offers a distribution site in front of FPCE on E. Swissvale Avenue, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

Come for quality free groceries or for a few volunteer hours!

Community Dinner

First Wednesdays: July 2, August 6, September 3 at 6 p.m.

We'll be firing up the grill on the side lawn with your favorites. And, as usual, they're FREE! Bring your family, friends and neighbors for good food and fellowship!!! Menus will be posted as the dates get closer. Check our website: www.fpcedgewood.org

Voces Solis Summer Singers

FPCE welcomes back to the sanctuary the Summer Singers, presented by Voces Solis, on Saturday, July 26 at 7 p.m. Join us for a varied program of new and familiar choral pieces, conducted by artistic director Dr. Ryan Keeling.

Your ability to enjoy the arts should not be based on your ability to pay for it. We trust our supporters to pay what they can!

Summer Singers will also be performing at Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park on July 27 at 1 p.m.

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PERSONAL INJURY & WORKERS' COMPENSATION



Sports

Field reservations

Groups or individuals engaged in an organized (i.e. leagues, social clubs, amateur associations, etc) sporting activity are required to apply for and receive a field use permit. Individuals or small groups wanting dedicated space are encouraged to make a reservation to ensure access, especially during peak times. Otherwise, field space/courts are first come, first serve.

Scheduling preference will be given to Edgewood residents and then to other leagues, groups, clubs and associations. The public may use all other parts of Koenig Field at any time that are not reserved.

Reservations are accepted from April 1 through November 15. The tennis/pickleball courts, restrooms and water fountains are closed to the public outside of the dates listed above. Other areas of the field may still be used for off-season personal and recreational use. Edgewood Borough withholds the right to make changes to availability of any part of Koenig Field.

To check availability or to make a reservation, please visit edgewood.pgh.pa.us, or call 412-242-4824.

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EDGEWOOD RECREATION

Teeball/Softball 'Thank You'

Thanks to all of the volunteer coaches who dedicated their time, and to all of the families who participated in Teeball and Softball this summer! We're so grateful to everyone for making it happen!

Fall Youth Soccer


This recreational league is open to boys and girls ages 4-13. Registration begins July 7 and ends August 15. Practices begin in late August/early September (dependent on coach availability). The cost for this sport is \$70.

Please register here: <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/486970>.

Participants should have cleats, shin guards, and it is strongly recommended to bring a practice ball. Shirts and socks will be provided. Spectators may bring their own chairs/blankets to sit on.

For questions about any of our athletic leagues, unless otherwise noted, please contact Abigail Ault at 412-242-4824, or email office@edgewoodboro.com.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Our leagues depend on our dedicated volunteers. We are always looking for parents or community members to help coach. You do not have to be an expert in soccer, and previous experience is not necessary. You just need to be able to be a role model and help guide teams through the season, provide basic instruction of the sport, and be ready to have fun! Clearances are required. If interested, please email office@edgewoodboro.com.

SPONSORSHIP

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor of Edgewood Youth Sports, visit www.Edgewood.pgh.ps.us/BecomeASponsor. Edgewood Continues our tradition of offering youth sports leagues to children in our area, and we are dedicated to keeping registration costs for families low, while still maintaining our field and equipment. Our sponsors make it possible to maintain safe, new equipment for our players, and keep registration fees reasonable. Thank you for your support!

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Summer Fun at Mellor Memorial Library

Chicken Office Hours—Stop by the children's room for a small group visit with one of our chicks. We'll learn about animal safety and development as we watch our chicks grow. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Join us at 3:30 p.m. on July 7-11 & 14-15 and at 3 p.m. on July 12.

Summer Clothing Swap—Bring clothing of all sizes in good condition to the Forest Hills Clothing Swap from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on August 2. School uniforms welcome.

Art Smarts—Meet the masters of visual art at your library! Every week we'll learn about a new artist, see examples of their work, and do a project based on their technique. Draw, paint, cut, and print with us all summer! For school-age children, Thursdays at 1 p.m. beginning on June 12.

Green Team—Join Ms. Jen at CCM Forest Hills every Tuesday at 4 p.m. and explore nature and the environment with summer reading and activities.

Nocturnal Animals—Discover the different species that are awake while we are asleep and why they are active at night in this presentation from Allegheny County Park Rangers on July 21 at 6 p.m. in the CCM Edgewood Children's Room.

Kids on the Block Puppet Show—Meet the Kids on the Block, a group of puppets educating kids about peers with disabilities, different abilities, tolerance, and diversity at 4 p.m. on July 29 in the CCM Edgewood Children's Room.

Clue Hunters—Puzzlers assemble! Get ready for mind-bending puzzles, hidden messages, and physical challenges this summer. We'll be gathering clues and attempting to solve new mysteries every week. For tweens ages 8-12, every Wednesday at 5 p.m., beginning on June 11.

Comic Camp—Spend a week designing and writing a short comic strip! Join us at 2 p.m. from July 14-18 in the CCM Edgewood Children's Room. For ages 8-12.

Video Game Night: Teens vs. Teachers & Librarians—Come play video games with your local librarians and teachers at 5 p.m. on July 10 in the CCM Edgewood Fiction Room. If you win, you'll earn bragging rights forever. Snacks will be provided!

Clothing Modifications and Mending—Explore how to repair and personalize your wardrobe at 4 p.m. on July 23 in the CCM Edgewood Board Room.

Resident News

'Olde Edgewood' by Cathy Dettore

"Some of us were born and raised here and are still here. Some moved here as adults. And are still here. But some of us were born here or moved here later and now moved some place else. But it's always good to come back to "Olde Edgewood."

So a few years ago some of us started to get together once a month at Dad's restaurant and reconnect. The groups started with 5 or 6 people and has grown to as many as 35 sometimes!

The reasons we get together are varied, but no matter what, a good time is had by all.

If anyone wants to join us, contact Cathy Dettore by text at 412-371-2829.

Edgewood Democrats Meeting

Information—The Edgewood Democrats meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the CC Mellor Library in the second floor conference room at 6:30 p.m. Come learn about our local chapter of the Allegheny County Democratic Committee!

SIX WEEK SERIES: Personal Safety & Self-Defense

DATES: July 11–August 15 (Every Friday) TIME: Noon–1 p.m. LOCATION: Hosted by Shaolin Studios

This series offers an empowering opportunity for community members to learn and practice essential personal safety and self-defense skills during their lunch hour. Each week, our SETpoint coaches will introduce new techniques through drills and simulations, reinforcing them throughout the six weeks to build confidence and muscle memory.

Our Personal Safety and Self-Defense training sessions will help develop skills in:

- Situational Awareness: Learning to identify and respond to environmental cues.
- Boundary Setting: Establishing personal boundaries, respecting others' boundaries, and recognizing healthy and unhealthy relationship dynamics.
- Physical Resistance: Practicing simple yet effective kicks, punches, and blocks, as well as techniques to break free from common grabs and holds.
- Survivor Support and Bystander Intervention: Understanding available resources for those in need and developing skills to assist others.

For more information, you can visit: bit.ly/SETpoint6WeekSeries

Woodland Hills School District

Edgewood Construction Update

As the school year came to a close, 90% of the first phase of renovations to Edgewood Elementary STEAM Academy had been completed, including the installation of a new roof, construction of a new security vestibule and entryway, creation of a bus drop-off area on Maple Avenue, substantial restoration to the brick and mortar, upgrades to staff parking areas, and more. Work on phase one will be completed over the summer. In addition, new windows have been installed along with new air conditioning units and an update to the HVAC system. Work is ramping up on interior renovations as part of phase two of the project, which will include repairs to walls, replacement of the flooring, furniture and locker upgrades, and more. Construction crews are working in two shifts, and any exterior work is scheduled to be completed by 3 p.m. each day to minimize any disruptions to the community.

Edgewood Team Wins District Robotics Competition

A team of third graders from Edgewood Elementary STEAM Academy won their grade-level championship during Woodland Hills’ annual VEX Robotics district competition. The challenge pits students from the district’s three elementary schools against each other in a test of their robotics skills, communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and coding. Students Jude, Liam, and Kyle came out on top in a very close competition alongside their peers from Turtle Creek and Wilkins Elementary STEAM Academies. The competition challenges students in third, fourth, and fifth grades to work in groups to navigate their robotic vehicles through a set course. The course features various tasks that reward the students with points if successfully completed.



The competition began with each class getting an opportunity to score as many points as possible. The top scores from each class then advanced to the next round to determine which team would represent each elementary school in the final round. Along with the championship team and the finalists from each school, various teams were recognized for their unique builds, their coding abilities, their teamwork and communication, their positive energy, and more.

Woodland Hills Fifth Graders unite in Combined Concert Performance

Tuesday, May 20 was the combined fifth grade concert for all elementary schools in the Woodland Hills School District. Students in the fifth grade orchestra, chorus, and concert band from Edgewood, Turtle Creek, and Wilkins performed together for the first time. It’s a unifying experience that prepares them for collaborating next year when they all move on to Dickson as sixth graders. The orchestra, chorus, and concert band each performed three pieces of music that challenged their ability to play with tempo, sing with enthusiasm, or hit just the right notes. The show was conducted by Woodland Hills music teachers Ms. Caesandra Burgh, Mr. Stephen Benton, Mrs. Lisa Endler, Mr. Kevin Shaw, and Mrs. Lora Hertrick.

Woodkand Hills Earns Eight Gene Kelly Award Nominations, wins for Outstanding Costume Design

The Woodland Hills Department of the Performing Arts took home the Gene Kelly Award for Outstanding Costume Design in recognition of the fantastic, hand-crafted costumes worn during the district’s production of “Hairspray” this spring. The Gene Kelly Awards recognize the best in Pittsburgh area high school theater each year, and Woodland Hills’ production of “Hairspray” earned eight total nominations in the largest school classification. Along with Costume Design, the district



was nominated for Outstanding Crew and Technical Execution, Outstanding Dance Ensemble, Outstanding Vocal Ensemble, Outstanding Lighting Design, Outstanding Scenic Design, and Outstanding Musical. Junior Liv Rocco was nominated for Outstanding Actress for her portrayal of Tracy Burnblad. The entire cast performed a rendition of “You Can’t Stop the Beat” at the award show, while Rocco and additional cast members were included in special performances throughout the evening.

Woodland Hills Class of 2025 Celebrates Commencement

The rain came, but the Class of 2025 danced through the raindrops with joy and smiles on their faces as they accepted their diplomas and became the latest graduates of Woodland Hills High School. “Four years ago, you walked into Woodland Hills High School, unsure what your journey would bring. None of us could have predicted the exact path you would take,” principal Dr. Shelly Manns told them. “Some of you carried quiet confidence. Others carried questions. And some carried the weight of the world. You all carry hope.” The class earned \$11,672,112 in scholarships as 158 members will pursue additional education, including 84 at four-year schools. Along with numerous schools throughout Pennsylvania, Woodland Hills graduates will attend Syracuse University, the prestigious Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Johns Hopkins University, and more. “You guys have been tested in ways that we have never imagined, but you emerge stronger, and in today’s world, those traits are going to be more critical than ever,” guest speaker Dr. Tracey Conti told the graduates.





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A Personalized, Environmental History of Edgewood *by Nora Faraci*

Jeanine, the neighborhood librarian, sits across from me at her small kitchen table. It's late summer, the trees, still full and dark, arch over our houses. We sit and talk over a plate of bacon and peach tea. Jeanine explains the pieces of Edgewood History that she has collected over the past year. She shows me archived photos of the school house and the watershed, remarking how much the land we now occupy has changed. Light pours in from her back window in a peculiar way for our tree-covered neighborhood. Behind her house lies the site of a major modification to this land, The Union Switch and Signal.

Land Over Time

But before the old factory, this land was lush and quiet. A trail created by Native Americans traversed the center of the neighborhood on what is now Swissvale Avenue. The trail stretched for miles between the Monogahela and Allegheny rivers so that the indigenous people could access water.

As time passed and industrialization took hold of the nation, the landscape began to change. After the first path came the construction of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1851, allowing for continued American industrial growth. These tracks are perhaps the defining feature of Edgewood, serving two independent purposes. Not only do they divide the neighborhood into two halves, but they also connect the suburban neighborhood to the city of Pittsburgh. As an Edgewood dweller, I consider the railroad to be a part of my lifestyle. I grew up to the sound of the cargo train rumbling house bone and singing me lullabies.

While Barbara, my longest standing neighbor, wasn't around for the construction of the railroad, she remembers the land before they built the highway. Dur-

ing our interview together, she described a sprawling field where community members spent afternoons picnicking. As a child, she would leave her house on Maple Ave to fly kites with her grandfather.

Edgewood was officially established in 1888 by a small group of Pittsburgh's ex-city dwellers eager to begin a quieter life away from the busy industrial landscape and into a serene, tree filled neighborhood. Despite their desire for the existing natural land, it was too leafy and wild for their growing community, thus began their paving efforts.

On the left side of the neighborhood ran a long winding stream, now referred to as Nine Mile Run. In archived photographs given to me by Jeanine, you can see small children leaping across the surrounding rocks, spending summer days dipping their toes into the cool water. In 1927, partial demolition began to convert the eastern portion of the stream into Greendale Avenue. However, much of it still remains. On my walks in Frick Park, I see parents telling their children to be careful playing on the slippery stones.

While the railroad was not a natural obstacle, it made it difficult for residents to access both halves of the neighborhood. In 1894, members of the borough council decided to construct a narrow foot bridge over the expanding tracks. This served as a temporary solution until local teenagers began loitering on the overpass, spitting on oncoming trains. In 1897, the borough decided that it was time to dig. They closed the foot bridge and built an underpass, likely excavating layers of clay, shale, and stone typical of eastern Pennsylvania's soil. In the past year, the borough has begun more modifications to this site, stripping away the existing wall to create a new one, arguably just as gray.

The construction of the Maple Avenue bridge over the parkway was the most

recent paving effort. Barbara said that she remembers watching the progress of the bridge in the late 1940's. She and her friend would walk across newly implemented support beams, braving their fear of heights and watching their neighborhood change below.

People

For the first residents, the Edgewood area represented a return to natural beauty and suburban charm distinguishing the borough. Many well-off merchant families from Pittsburgh migrated to the neighborhood and built small mansions surrounded by large yards with the money they earned. The Gordons, one of the first families to move, settled into a home on the top of Maple Avenue. They valued the peacefulness of Edgewood life coupled with the easy access to the train station. Jane Swisshelm— a noteworthy abolitionist, editor, and feminist— moved into the opposite side of the neighborhood, conserving a large portion of her land for trees and wildlife. Today, the site of her estate is taken over by the highway.

I found a quote in an old Edgewood book, recommended to me by Jeanine, that perfectly encapsulates the integration of the neighborhood between the city and the country. "Within sound of the trolley and the shriek of the locomotive, amidst the roar of industry from dawn till dark in the early Spring and Summer we hear the liquid notes of the cardinal..." This quote captures the essence of Edgewood's duality, where the sounds of nature coexisted with the bustling noise of industrial life. Not only was Edgewood home to a bird sanctuary, several park pavilions and shaded tennis courts, but the neighborhood was also the location of a major industrial plant.

The Union Switch and Signal was founded by George Westinghouse in the

late 1800's primarily to create railroad signaling equipment. This factory had a somewhat positive relationship with Edgewood as it paid for a majority of the borough's taxes and brought in many new residents. The Switch and Signal had a profound impact on the layout of the neighborhood. Houses built closer to the factory, indicating lower rank positions, were much smaller. Houses further away, built on the main roads, Swissvale and Maple, were much larger and were resided by families in higher rank positions.

The Union Switch and Signal licensed the manufacture of rotary engines used in fighter planes during World War I. They were the most common type of engine and around 10,000 were produced in Edgewood. This made the factory a potential target of the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. Barbara mentioned that during WWII, the factory was a potential bomb site. She recalls a signal that would go off in the presence of fighter jets warning the entire neighborhood to shut off all lights. She said that even people driving in cars would have to stop moving and become a part of the darkness.

Edgewood experienced unprecedented growth and development in the years George Westinghouse's Union Switch and Signal was in operation from 1881-1984. The company created jobs and wealth that allowed the community to thrive and later created the demand for the shopping center that replaced the Switch and Signal. The Edgewood Town Center added convenience and walkability to the neighborhood. It also ushered in a new era of commercialism, leasing properties to chain stores and restaurants such as Kmart, The Giant Eagle, Applebee's, and Arby's. The once natural and idyllic landscape that attracted Edgewood's first settlers was crisscrossed by the train tracks and parkway and was paved over by the factory and shopping center.

Community

In 1891, shortly after the establishment of Edgewood, the borough decided that it was time to build their own church and school. While the Presbyterian church is nearly identical today to when it was first constructed, the school has gone through changes. Edgewood School started off small, housing its first 60 children in a building donated by the school of the deaf. The school prioritized a rigorous curriculum, teaching the students foreign languages in addition to their traditional coursework. This legacy continued throughout the time Barbara attended elementary and high school.

However, when she was in third grade, Barbara temporarily left Edgewood to move in with her dad in California. She told me that her teachers in the west thought that she was exceptionally bright. She stated that she was confused by this praise and that that was just how the Edgewood school system taught her to be.

When Barbara returned to the neighborhood in fifth grade, the school was still only accepting kids from Edgewood. Every day, she would walk from her house at the top of Maple to her classroom and return home for lunch. At the end of the day, she and her friends would live out some of Barbara's fondest memories, going down to the 'druggie', now a cat cafe, to sip sodas and unwind. Barbara's Edgewood, much like it is today, was a small tight knit community filled with local businesses and small parks for everyone to enjoy.

Later, when Barbara's daughter was in school in the 1980's, the Edgewood School was integrated into the Woodland Hills District. Edgewood had lost its title as one of the best schools in the Pittsburgh area, however, many were happy to broaden access to education for kids in the surrounding area.

The Edgewood Club, established in 1904 in an old Edgewood School building, fulfilled the borough's need for a local gathering place, albeit private and

exclusive. The geometric building hosted billiard games, ballroom dancing classes, and tennis matches to keep children out of trouble and strengthen community bonds. Later, it was the site of the first Woman's Club and election night listening party. Since its establishment, the club has added a swimming pool and the C.C. Mellor Library from which I gathered much of this information.

In the summer, I like to listen to the sounds of children splashing into the water from my shaded porch steps. Often, Barbara will sit across from me on her rocking chair, reading the daily newspaper and attempting to pet my cat Fiddlesticks.

I spend the majority of my school days in the city, shoving myself into the port-authority bus and eating at chain restaurants with my friends. However, I always enjoy the peacefulness of returning to Edgewood. This neighborhood is a family, these trees, our home.

Nora Faraci is a 2025 Mel Douglas Honorable Mention Scholarship recipient.

A Note from the Shade Tree Committee

TREE ART SUBMISSION

SHARE YOUR TREE ART

Share your tree art, to be featured in the Edgewood Borough newsletter! We're looking for drawings, paintings, poems, and short stories celebrating trees! Optionally, you may include the name and age (under 18) of the artist. You may enter a submission by mailing artwork to:

Edgewood Borough Tree Committee
(art submission)

2 Race Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15218
or

Email to: office@edgewoodboro.com,
with 'tree art submission' and the
artist's last name in the subject line.

CALENDAR at a glance...

JULY

Council Meetings: 7 & 21, 7:30 pm; at Borough Building

Refuse: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Recycling: 10, 24

Borough Office Closed: 4

Movie Night (Kung Fu Panda): 25

AUGUST

Council Meetings: 4 & 18, 7:30 pm; at Borough Building

Refuse: 7, 14, 21, 28

Recycling: 7, 21

Community Day: 23

EF

EDGEWOOD
FOUNDATION

SAVE THE DATE

Brinton Rd Cleanup

6/7 & 8/16

Community Day

8/23

Sleepover in the park

9/6

Newcomers Reception

9/18

Oktoberfest

10/4

Wine & Chocolate

11/15

Light up Edgewood

12/6

EDGEWOODFOUNDATION.ORG

FOR DETAILS

A note from the real estate tax collector...

The bills for the 2025 Edgewood Borough Real Estate Taxes were mailed on April 1 and are now due at face value until July 31. the discount rate EXPIRED May 31. Payments should be sent directly to Jordan Tax Service to ensure payments are receipted in a timely manner.

JORDAN TAX SERVICE, INC.
102 RAHWAY ROAD
MCMURRAY, PA 15317
www.jordantax.com

If you must speak to someone about your taxes, please contact Chris Bell at Jordan Tax Service at 724-731-2300 Ext. 125 or chris@jordantax.com.

Woodland Hills School District tax bills will be mailed out July 1, 2025. Directions for payment will be printed on the insert.

SHARE YOUR NEWS...

Proud of your new baby? Enjoyed a great vacation? Got a promotion or attended a convention? Please clip this coupon, stick it on the fridge and fill it out when you have some news to share in the Edgewood Newsletter. Photos welcome.

Mail to: Edgewood Newsletter
2 Race Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

OR....drop off at the borough building.
Email: newsletter@edgewoodboro.com
If you have any questions call: 412-242-4824.

Borough Directory

Borough Office Information

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Phone 412-242-4824
Fax..... 412-242-4027
Website:..... www.edgewoodboro.com
Mailing address: Two Race Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Borough Manager
Rob Zahorchak..... 412-242-4824
Email:..... manager@edgewoodboro.com

Public Works..... 412-242-8424, ext. 220

Code Enforcement
Steven Stegner..... 412-242-4824, ext. 219
Email:..... inspections@edgewoodboro.com

Tuesday/Thursday
Recreation
Abigail Ault..... 412-242-4824, ext. 217

Tax Office
Jordan Tax Service 724-731-2311

Wage Taxes
Keystone Collections 724-978-0300

Police and Fire
Emergency 911

Police Chief
Robert Payne..... 412-242-4824, ext. 221
Email:..... policechief@edgewoodboro.com

Fire Chief
Ben Reynolds 412-242-9994
Email:..... firechief@edgewoodboro.com

Garbage Collection & Recycling Collection
BIG's Sanitation..... 724-379-4331

Newsletter Editor 412-242-4824
Email:..... newsletter@edgewoodboro.com

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Advertising and Publishing Requests

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Advertising and publishing requests must be submitted by the first of the month prior to the newsletter issue in which your ad or article will appear. Submissions are due as follows: January/February due December 1, March/April due February 1, May/June due April 1, July/August due June 1, September/October due August 1, November/December due October 1. Please send all articles, advertisements and correspondence to the attention of the editor, email: newsletter@edgewoodboro.com or call 412-242-4824.





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Mel Douglas Scholarship Fund award recipients: Front (left to right): Grace Hall, Miah Kodman, and Lucy Mihalcin. Middle: Greer Langmead, Nora Faraci, Linden Wallace, and Olivia Hutcherson. Back: Jonah Suffoletto, Vivian DiMenno, Michael McCarroll*, and Michael Caruso. (Missing from photo: Lillian Divelbiss and Eva Ruth Scandrett)*

**Mel Douglass Scholarship award recipients (\$10,000 each),
remaining students recieved Honorable Mention Scholarships (each worth \$1,500)*