

January 19, 2023,

Dear Schenley Farmers,

I wanted to provide some updates for you as well on some of the “going’s on” in Oakland.

- As reported by the Post-Gazette this week, the Oakland Crossing project is on “pause”. Walnut Capital sited several issues that precipitated this action including rising interest rates, labor shortages, and delays associated with getting the project started, but they affirmed their commitment to the project, grocery store, affordable housing, and their ongoing commitment to the project. <https://www.post-gazette.com/business/development/2023/01/13/pittsburgh-walnut-capital-oakland-crossings-426-apartments-grocery-halket-street/stories/202301130068>
- UPMC: Helicopter flight path changes during construction of the new hospital bed tower construction will begin as cranes for building the project will be deployed soon. As a result, the primary flight path will be moved from its current pattern (coming in from the south over Schenley Park and the Pitt campus) to a new primary flight pattern that will come in from the North over the Peterson Event Center. The secondary flight pattern is one that comes directly over Schenley Farms and will only be used when wind or weather make it unsafe to fly along the primary flight path. The change in flight paths will likely begin in March 2023 and continue until sometime in 2025 when the cranes come down and the Southern route becomes accessible.
- UPMC: ER access. Beginning in April 2023, construction will begin over the ER entrance off DeSoto that will ultimately connect to the new bed tower. As a result, traffic to the ER will be limited to ambulances + private cars bringing someone to the ER. All other automobile traffic for visitors and outpatients to Presbyterian will be directed to the North Entrance to the Presbyterian parking lot (off Terrance St). Once in the garage, there will be directions to the valet service. Individuals will then be directed to the lobby connecting the Basic Science Tower (BST) and Eye and Ear Institute where they will be re-directed to the over-street walkway connecting the parking garage with Presbyterian. There will certainly be congestion along Darragh Street going north from Fifth Ave and DeSoto Street as it goes north toward the Peterson Center where it turns into Terrace St. Rerouting outpatient and visitor traffic to Presby will likely continue until October 2024.
- OPDC: A “Let’s Talk” session on Rental Registration and Quality of Life Ticketing will soon be available on their website: <https://www.opdc.org/events/lets-talk-jan-2023>
- OPDC: Several homes and apartments are and will be available through OPDC, particularly in South Oakland. These properties will serve as affordable rental housing and affordable homes for qualifying first-time homeowners. <https://www.opdc.org/housing>

- North Oakland: Kathy Gallagher is working hard to bring the signage for the new vape shop next to Butterjoint into compliance.
- Carlow University has opened a food pantry for their students that includes spices. <https://www.carlow.edu/student-life/student-services/mercy-center-for-care/>
- Oakland Business Improvement District (OBID): Glowland was quite a success. There were estimated to be over 1 million visitors to Oakland last year (up from 750,000 from the prior year). Plans are to initiate a “3rd Thursday” event from July to October 2023 that will include art, music, and other festivities. You can check out these and other events on their website: <https://oaklandpittsburgh.com/explore?type=Events>
- Soldiers and Sailors: There will be some repair work on their roof, so you might see some activity in that regard.
- Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT): Public comment on the Downtown-Uptown-Oakland Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project and major service changes continues until February 1, 2023. Registering comments our outlined on this website: <https://www.rideprt.org/inside-Pittsburgh-Regional-Transit/projects-and-programs/bus-rapid-transit/brt-hearing/>
- PRT: Descriptions of the proposed changes for the BRT project can be found on this website: <https://www.rideprt.org/inside-Pittsburgh-Regional-Transit/projects-and-programs/bus-rapid-transit/BRT-service/>
- Schenley Farms Website: Following Janet’s hard work putting historical and pictorial events on the Schenley Farms website, we are working to make the website more accessible to the neighbors. This will include postings (such as this one) that can be found easily on the website. More to come on this.

That’s all for now. Let me know if you have any additional questions

Best,

Rob Squires
President, Schenley Farms Civic Association