

HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club
Newsletter for
January 1999



Edited by Ollie Rieley

The Power of Positive Thinking

Mitch Kates

In my previous article I addressed the issue in which certain people referred to Pittsburgh as a "dying city." I dissected that statement and pointed out a series of good things happening in the city today and how uninformed I believed these nay-sayers were. As I pondered this topic I wondered what good comes from being negative? What can someone hope to accomplish by looking at the dark side?

Within the past couple of months Highland Park has been the recipient of some incredibly good press. One great story was based on the results of the stand we took to protect the reservoir from being covered. As the story pointed out, a group of concerned citizens along with the members of the Community Club approached the Water & Sewer Authority about the impending reservoir cover and how we were opposed to the idea. Our group was led by Dave Hance, a member of both the Community Club and the HPCDC. With-out rehashing the story again, after what would be considered Herculean efforts, the reservoir was saved. The debate would last close to nine years and went from a "done deal," where the reservoir would be covered, to a much better solution. In the final analysis it will also lead to the Reservoir's total renovation.

The important elements of this story are many. In the beginning the players that came to the table all worked together with a great sense of positive energy to find a solution that would work for everyone. In 99% of similar scenarios, there would be winners and losers, good guys and bad guys. In this instance there were no losers, no bad guys; everybody came out on top. Dave and others continually came to the table with a never ending supply of ideas. They constantly pushed for alternatives with the ultimate goal to keep covers off one of our most precious neighborhood attractions. Fortunately, because of all the energy put in by people like Dave, and because of all the time the Water & Sewer Authority allowed for the issue to stay open, technology caught up to the project and a solution that didn't exist even one year ago was found.

Every person involved in the process believed in a positive solution and fought for it. No one would allow any of the others to settle, therefore everyone involved became a hero!

I ask everyone to look around, even if it's just in the East End. What good would be accomplished if we just kept to the attitude that East Liberty was a failed city planning project that will never recover. Those who believe East Liberty is worth revitalizing appear to be winning the race. Some may say there is a long way to go, but for those of us who let in the positive, the ever elusive "light at the end of the tunnel" is drawing near.

Recently our community was faced with a new business venture in the neighborhood. Most of us saw the positive it would bring and came out to show our collective support. Dozens of supporters showed up to meetings to find ways to make this opportunity work for everyone. Many an hour was spent on trying to find solutions to possible problems that some felt would arise if this business were established. Unfortunately, not every one could be satisfied, but most issues were solved because of the group's efforts.

The Highland Park Community Club has been in existence for over 50 years. For much of the Club's history it has been viewed in a negative light by outsiders. Many would say the club stood in the way of progress and did not represent the true community of Highland Park. I stated at the beginning of my tenure that my goal was to help change the image of the club. I am proud to report that during the zoning process of this proposed business the Community Club was there in support with many members of our neighborhood also there to show their support. An unofficial poll revealed that we as a group had the largest turnout in favor of a project brought before the Zoning Board. Dare I suggest that the Community Club's image is changing?!?

And so the "beat goes on..." Remember, think positive and we can accomplish anything. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and have a very happy New Year. Talk to you next month. Adieu.

The Next HPCC Meeting is 7:15 p.m., Thursday, January 21st at St. Andrews

Around St. Andrew's

By Bruce Robison

January will be an interesting month around the scene at St. Andrew's Church on Hampton Street.

The New Year 1999 will be "rung-in" from the church bell tower at midnight on New Year's Eve--and then toasted with appropriate holiday cheer at the rectory. All are warmly invited to join in this now-traditional neighborhood gathering!

For folks interested in musical programs, on Saturday evening, January 2nd, at 8 p.m. the early music ensemble "Millennium" will present a program, "Christmas in a Medieval Village" (tickets on sale at the door). Then on Thursday, January 7th, also at 8 p.m., the regular monthly service of Choral Evensong will be followed with a recital on St. Andrew's E.M. Skinner Pipe Organ by Dr. Charles H. Heaton, Highland Park resident and retired Organist and Choir Master of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church. It's always a treat to hear Dr. Heaton play!

Also in January the Creative Writing Workshop, "Interest in Writing," will meet on Wednesday the 20th at 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the Parish Hall, and volunteers continue to be invited to join in ExtraOrdinary Tutoring at St. Andrew's every Thursday afternoon. (If you can spare an hour a week, at some time between 4:30 and 7 p.m. on Thursdays, to tutor an East End child, please call 661-1245 and leave a message!)

Sunday services at St. Andrew's include a service of Holy Communion in the Chapel at 9 a.m. and a service of choral worship at 11 a.m. Children and youth come to church with their families and then are dismissed from the service to attend Church School and Youth programs. On Wednesday mornings we have a service of Holy Communion in the Chapel at 10:30 a.m., with an informal Bible Study meeting from 11 a.m. until about noon.

New : An ATM at Peppi's at the Park!

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Welcoming: Maureen Emerling 441-5244
Zoning: Barbara Howe 363-4699

Voice Mail 734-5261

Seminary Events

The following events of general interest from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Newsletter for the winter 1998 are noted:

January 20th, 11:15 A. M. The Kelso Lecture in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. being given by Valatino Lassiter, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, John Carrol University, Cleveland OH. **“The Gospel According to Martin Luther King, Jr.”**

January 30th, 3:00 P. M. **“A Concert in Honor of Mozart’s Birthday”** featuring Pauline Rovkah, piano; Ann Martindale Williams, cello; Lauren Scott Mallory, cello; Isaias Zelkowitz, viola; Linda Lemmon, violin; and Elysabeth Muscat-Cathas, voice. Admission charged.

Many Helpers Make for a Great Party!

Diane DiNardo

The HPCC extends a warm thank you to all of our members who shared their talents to make this year’s HPCC Holiday Party a festive and fun-filled afternoon. Delightful jazz filled the room with the music of Mark Flaherty, piano; Jeff Grubbs, bass; and Tonya Grubbs, vocals. Mitch and Cindy Kates and Paula Flaherty organized the event and decorated the Nuin Center with help from Mary Rose. Mary Lee Snuffer got us all laughing and meeting one another with her "name game". Before joining the party, Jan Stayianos got the kitchen rolling. Bob Starsenic made a jolly host greeting members and guests who came bearing food for the party and donations for the EECM Food Pantry. A great time was had by all -- thanks every one!

Reminder II - Membership Renewal

Membership applications were included in the July 1998 Newsletter. These were to be used by new members joining for the first time and continuing members to send in their dues for 1999. If you haven’t sent a card in yet, please do so immediately. If you’ve lost or misplaced your card, call Kelly Meade, Membership Chair, at 362-0331 for a replacement. We can’t afford to send newsletters to non-dues-payers so those who are not current with their dues will be deleted from the list for the February Newsletter.

HPCC 1998-1999 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Kelly Meade

As of December 17, 1998, there are 329 dues paying HPCC members. In addition, 53 people or organizations are receiving a complimentary newsletter.

New Members of the HPCC:

Pauline Victoria Alston
Laura Dietz
Joanne and Gary Garvin
Virginia McLaughlin
Jennifer Parsons & Tom Klemmer
Cathy Rieley-Goddard
Paola Scommegna & Paul Nelson
Janine Simmons & Sean Jones
Andrew Whitis & David McKeoun

Reminder I - Buses + Traffic ?s

Representatives of the Port Authority and the City will be at the January 21st HPCC meeting to answer our questions and hear complaints about bus service or traffic in the community. This will be the only program for this meeting. 7:15 P. M. on January 21st in Brooks Hall at St. Andrew’s. Your chance to give input!!!

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St. Andrew’s Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services - January

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

11:00 a.m. Choral Morning Worship

Nursery and Church School at 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Morning Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

Visit our Homepage: www.hows.net/15206saec



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HPCC Meeting -- December 17, 1998

Ollie Rieley

Meeting opened at 7:37 by President Mitch Kates.

Mitch opened the meeting with several comments about the health of Highland Park:

There has been a series of strong, good reports in the press: A feature on the reservoir covers followed by an editorial a few days later. This showed that a community can work with and through people to get the message to the powers that be. There can be alternatives to an undesirable end.

He also noted that the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved the appeal to allow a coffee shop in the old Marcus Pharmacy location, subject to several conditions. He noted that the sale of the building to Amy Enrico, the proposed coffee shop's owner, closed a few days before the meeting. It is not known at this time whether the Zoning Board of Adjustment decision will be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas by objecting neighbors.

New members introduced themselves.

New Business:

A comment was made that the traffic on N Highland Ave. is increasing and becoming excessive. Question: Could One Wild Place (ne Hill Rd.) be closed to all but Zoo traffic and traffic be re-

routed to Negley Run which is designed to be a through street? A suggestion was made there should be a ticket blitz to control speeding on N. Highland and N. Negley. No conclusion was reached; these are just the sort of issues that should be brought up to PAT and City representatives at the January meeting.

Committee Reports:

Bryant Street Committee is renamed the *Business District* Committee. Banners are being planned for installation in the spring with city funding help arranged by Councilman Ferlo.

Membership: New member report elsewhere in Newsletter. Diane DiNardo, reporting for chair Kelly Meade, requested and received approval of funding for professional help in transferring the membership database from Diane's Apple computer to Kelly's PC compatible computer.

Newsletter: Input is due, desire to mail before Christmas.

Thanks were extended to Mark Flaherty, Jeff Grubbs, and Tonya Grubbs for the music at the Holiday Party and to all others who helped make a special event.

Mitch reminded all to continue the Nabisco Boycott.

