

# HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club  
Newsletter for  
December 1999



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Edited by Ollie Rieley

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## Stocking Lake Carnegie

Ollie Rieley

On Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M., Lake Carnegie will be stocked with 800 fish of various species. Children from Dillworth Traditiona Academy, Fulton academy and Craig House will be there to help turn the fish loose. All those who are interested are invited to attend.

The stocking is the result of a grant request prepared by Yarone Zober on behalf of the HPCC. The \$2500 Lake Carnegie vicinity. One objective of the grant is to provide an educational benefit - thus the school children have been invited to participate. Representative of the City will be there and comment on the occasion. Several varieties of fish will be set free, including crappie, small mouth bass, perch, catfish and others.

Thanks to Yarone for taking the initiative and getting the grant!

### HPCC EVENTS

- a. No December Meeting, see you in the New Millennium! Tom Dickson, past President of CDC will present the January program.
- b. There is planned to be a January 2000 Newsletter. Input due to the editor by December 16
- c. HPCC Night at Zoo Lights 12/29 - see adjacent column.
- d. A "Holiday" party is being planned for early in the new year. Watch for details!

## HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY CLUB INVITES YOU

TO  
Spend a "**DELIGHTFUL**" evening with  
Highland Park Families, Friends & Neighbors at

**Duquesne Zoolights  
at the Pittsburgh Zoo**

Wednesday, December 29, 1999

*We will meet at the entrance to the ZOO at 6:30 PM*

The Cost : \$2.00 per person for children and adults \*  
(children under 2 years of age are admitted free of charge)

*Free Parking*

HPCC will treat all attendees to **Hot Chocolate** at the  
KIDS KINGDOM PAVILLION at 8:00PM

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY  
**DECEMBER 20, 1999**

PLEASE RETURN TEAROFF, BELOW,  
WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO **HPCC**  
TO: MARY LEE SNUFFER, 837 N. HIGHLAND AVE.  
PITTSBURGH PA 15206 - PHONE 734-8477

\_\_\_ \*\$2.00 fee is based on a minimum of 15 attendees. \_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF TICKETS AT \$2.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

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THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2000, AT ST. ANDREWS

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A M O U N T  
ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ **Thanks for**

## the Reservoir Party

Diane DeNardo

*Editor's Note: The following paragraph was inadvertently omitted from last month's Newsletter, I apologize!*

Thank you to the following people for helping to make the party a joyous event: Debbie DeAngelis, Tony Piccoli, Mary Roberge, David and Mary Lee Snuffer, Bob Staresinic and our gracious host, Bob O'Keefe, Principal of Dilworth Traditional Academy who opened his school for our neighborhood celebration.

\*\*\*\*

## The Game of Life

Cathy Rieley-Goddard

*Ed. Note: Our daughter, Cathy, who is associated with Buffalo, NY's CEM, wrote this as part of a solicitation of support. I felt just this part is a message in and of itself that we should all read and ponder.*

A couple of years ago I was playing a board game with some of the kids in the after-school program sponsored by Concerned Ecumenical Ministry (CEM). As a self-proclaimed "nut" of board games, I was particularly looking forward to playing "The Game of LIFE," as it was one of my favorites when I was a child.

For those of you who have played LIFE, you may remember early in the game players are confronted with the choice of going to college or entering the workforce upon completing high school. Inevitably, those going to college earn a higher wage over the course of their lifetime than those opting for the quick earning power of skipping college.

As I was playing with the kids, I noticed a pattern developing among them -- none of the kids elected to go to college. When I questioned them about this decision I was not prepared for the response I received. To a person, each of the kids dismissed the possibility of ever attending college -- it was simply stated, an option outside of their comprehension. Suddenly, the game ceased being fun and I was overcome with the stark reality of the self-imposed limitations that these kids had placed on themselves.

That experience has had a profound impact on my outlook in dealing with the boys and girls in our after-school program. We have worked hard to keep their hopes and dreams alive, instilling the belief that despite often overwhelming social and economic challenges -- they can achieve.

*If after reading this, you feel called to volunteer to help our young people, call Susy Robison, Volunteer Coordinator for EECM and she will be glad to help you find a satisfying job working with youth. Call her on 361-5549 ext 415.*

## H. P. C. C.

Officers, Directors & Committees

President: Diane DeNardo(363-2092)

President Eled: \_\_\_\_\_

Comm. Dev. V.P.: Mitch Kales (661-4995)

Treasurer: Jill Boarls (661-1507)

Secretary: Paula Flaherty (361-2203)

Past President: Mitch Kales (661-4995)

### Directors

Carol Dyas 661-1613 (00)

Jay Gilmer 363-9100 (00)

Kelly Meade 362-0331 (00)

Mary Lee Snuffer 734-8477 (00)

Bob Staresinic 441-8972 (00)

Tom Burns 363-3654 (01)

David Hance 361-4935 (01)

M. Meyers 661-2315 (01)

Ollie Rieley 661-1205 (01)

Kathy Ziegler 363-1252 (01)

Jay Carson (02)

Amy Enrico 362-2970 (02)

Paula Flaherty 361-2203 (02)

Karen Raffensberger 363-9750 (02)

Jan Stajanos 363-8208 (02)

### Committees

Beautification: Dell Ziegler 363-1252

Block Watch: Jan Stajanos 363-8208

Children: Tania Grubbs 661-4054

Commercial District: Muzz Meyers 661-2315

Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195

Education: Jay Gilmer 363-9100

Hospitality: Kelly Dougherty 362-9517

House Tour: Norma Lipscomb 362-6562

Membership: Kelly Meade 362-0331

Newsletter: Ollie Rieley 661-1205

Program: Bruce Robison 361-4892

Public Safety: Mercine Nefores 661-5425

Recreation: Charlie Peterson 441-2766

Reservoir Covers: Dave Hance 361-4935

Restoration: Debbie DeAngelis 363-4948

Super Playground: Steve Peltier 363-3978

Yard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830

Voice Mail: Paula Flaherty 361-2203

Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972

Zoning: \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Mail 734-5261

C. O. P. 665-3644 - Pager 690-6008

## Highlights of November meeting

*Paula Flaherty*

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Diane will nominate Dave Hance for a community Jefferson award to honor his achievement in saving the reservoir.

Money has been given to Dillworth Academy and Fulton School for library resources (\$500 to each school). A letter from Dillworth thanking the club was read.

A check in the amount of \$250 was donated to St. Andrew's for window restoration.

Copies of the bylaws are going to be reproduced and distributed to all board members and anyone else who is interested in receiving one.

Highland Park night at Zoo Lights will occur on Wednesday, December 29. Hot chocolate will be provided by the club. Admission is \$2.00 per person, a \$1.00 discount.

Pittsburgh's First Night is looking for volunteers.

Friends of the Riverfront are asking for letters of support.

The Community Design Center and Community Technical Assistance Center are holding a forum dealing with problem properties on Wednesday, December 1 from 12:00 - 1:30 P.M. A grant of \$1000 will be awarded to the most creative solution for this problem.

Community organizations and social agencies are invited to submit a proposal for a public art project. Artists are also invited to apply and will be paired with a project. A sculpture for Highland Park was suggested as a possible project.

A concern was expressed that the walls of the Home Depot invite graffiti.

Officer Scalice reported that there were three attempts at burglary but the man was caught. She reminded residents to always make your home look like someone is there to discourage attempts at burglary.

Marsha Dugan reported that the cleanup day at the Super Playground was successful. See separate article.

The guest speaker was Meg Cheever, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. A slide show featured the present and past condition of the four major city parks: Riverview, Schenley, Frick and Highland Park. She noted that the Conservancy is focusing on a pilot project for each park. The pilot project for Highland Park is the restoration of the fountain and garden at the Highland Avenue entrance. Once those are complete the conservancy will move to more extensive plans.

A report of the most recent Public Safety meeting at the Zone 5 Station House was given by Mercene Nefores. Armed burglaries and thefts were up in October. Forms for the Beat Auto Theft (BAT) program will be available at the January meeting. They include recommendation to etch the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) into each window of the car, thereby substantially reducing the ability to resell the car if stolen. In addition, it is suggested that the "CLUB" be installed up-side-down to make removal of the lock cylinder more difficult for would-be thieves. Mercine gave thanks to Maureen Cato for her help in getting Mercine started in this job.

Mary Beth Steisslinger described a new business at Butler Street near the 62<sup>nd</sup> St. (Fleming) bridge which warehouses recycled building materials. This business will be an excellent resource for homeowners with older houses. Material are accepted as well as sold.

Jill Boarts was unanimously elected treasurer. Budget proposals should be submitted to her by Committee Chairs as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M. Happy Holidays to all.



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## *Thanks for the Halloween Parade*

*Tania Grubbs*

### *The Highland Park Community Club Would Like to Thank the Following Individuals, Organizations and Companies for Their Contributions to the Highland Park Children's Halloween Parade*

Councilman Jim Ferlo & Staff

Artist & Craftsman Supply

Eat n' Park Restaurants

Waterworks Giant Eagle

Target Stores

Pittsburgh Pirates Partners

Pittsburgh Steelers

Pizza Outlet

Peabody High School

City of Pittsburgh Police

Chuck Kusher our pumpkin guy

Fox Chapel Busy Beaver

UPMC

Terry Villa

Peppi's Sandwich Shop

Lou Iezzi Auto Body

Arts Antique Restoration

PM Pizza

Enrico's Tazza d'Oro

Sandy's Delicatessen

Bryant Street Lottery

Marybeth Steisslinger and Tim Stavenger

Pittsburgh Toy Lending Library

LaLeche League of East Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Children's Museum

Hendrix House of Hair

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

East Liberty McDonalds

Lavette Bivins, Paula Flaherty, Kate Carrigan, Denise O'Connor, Jan Stayianos, Christina Lagnese, Tania Grubbs, Jeff Grubbs, Mary Lee Snuffer, Amilie Crewe, Mercine Nefores, Kate & Yarone Zober. Andrea Juhala, Karen Camere, Linda Crewe, Bob Staresinic, and everyone else who gave of themselves.

*Also, we want to thank each and everyone of you for supporting our  
community*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Successful Parade**

*Ollie Rieley*

Another commitment kept me from actually seeing the HPCC Halloween Parade on October 30<sup>th</sup>, but I did manage to get to Bryant Court in time to watch some of the post parade festivities.

There was an extensive collection of activities in progress sponsored by many different groups; the article above acknowledges and thanks all who contributed. It was obvious that the kids were excited and enjoying themselves. The turnout was good, it was a beautiful day. What more could be asked of a Halloween Parade? Thanks to Tania Grubbs and her group of helpers for all the work put into this event. Those of you who missed it should plan to attend next year.

\*\*\*\*

## **NEW CUB SCOUT PACK**

*Bruce Robison*

A new Cub Scout Pack 34, to include boys from Tiger Cubs through Webelos (1st - 5th grades) is being formed this fall. The Pack meets at St. Andrew's at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evenings, and all boys are welcome! Call Scout Leader Stacey Williams at 361-2140 for more information.

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## **Tidbits**

*Ollie Rieley*

1. I've been told there will be occasional *Highland Park Neighborhood Walks*. The object of the walks is facilitate friends getting together to share friendship, fitness and a relaxing hot or cold drink. The walks are to begin at Tazza d'Oro and return there after walking some of our streets. The walks are coordinated by Renee Sarracino of Club One (362-4806) and Amy Enrico of Tazza d'Oro (362-3676). Call Renee or Amy for more information.

2. I'm getting excited over the prospect of Home Depot opening. I tried to find out their schedule date but all I learned is that it will be early next year. I tried calling Vento's Pizza and got a cheerful recorded message looking forward to reopening but without a date. I'll just have to remain patient!

### **St. Andrew's Church**

5801 Hampton Street \* Highland Park

#### **Sunday Morning Services - December**

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.

#### **Christmas Eve Services:**

4:30 p.m. (Family); 10:30 p.m. (Music)

11:00 p.m. (Traditional)

Wednesday Morning Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

Visit our Homepage: [www.hows.net/15206saec](http://www.hows.net/15206saec)

## 3. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR to all!

\*\*\*\*

**Around St. Andrew's***Bruce Robison*

With the wonderful and meaningful traditions of the Advent and Christmas seasons, December is always an exciting month here at St. Andrew's.

\*On Thursday evening, December 2nd, a service of Choral Evensong in Advent will begin at 8 p.m., with a recital following to feature Advent and Christmas solos by a selection of great composers. A festive reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

\*On Friday evening, December 10th, at 8 p.m., our Adult Education Committee is hosting "An Evening of Reflections on the New Millennium." We're invited to bring poetry (favorites by others, or our own), stories, songs, or other expressions of our thoughts and feelings associated with the end of the year, decade, century, millennium--and with the beginning of a "new era."

\*On Saturday evening, December 11th, at 8 p.m., the Pittsburgh Camerata will sing its holiday program here, with traditional Christmas music from the many ethnic traditions that make up our Pittsburgh community. (Tickets are available at the door, \$12/\$6 students.)

\*At the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, December 19th, the much-loved "Children's Pageant of Christmas," featuring youth from the wider St. Andrew's community, will be our morning worship.

\*All in the neighborhood are invited to join us for "Carols around the Bonfire" in the Churchyard, on Tuesday, December 21st, beginning at 7:30 p.m. (with cookies and cocoa to follow). Bring a flashlight!

\*Friday, December 24th Christmas Eve Services will include at 4:30 p.m. a "Family Service" of Holy Communion, with the blessing of the Christmas Creche, traditional carols, and a homily for children.

\*The traditional candlelight service begins at 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve with a choral presentation of Benjamin Britten's beautiful "A Ceremony of Carols," under the direction of Victoria Cole. The "midnight service" of Holy Communion continues at 11 p.m., with offerings by St. Andrew's Choir, under the direction of Peter J. Luley.

\*For those preferring a quieter Christmas observance, a simple service of the Holy Communion is offered in the Chapel at 10 a.m. on Christmas morning, Saturday, December 25th.

\*And, finally, at the dawning of a new century: For those who would find meaningful a prayerful start to the year 2000, a simple

service will be held in the St. Andrew's Chapel beginning at 11 p.m. on Friday, December 31st. Then, at 11:45 p.m., we'll gather in the church entry and climb the church tower and "ring in" the new year with the great St. Andrew's Bell. All are invited! A festive gathering to toast the new millennium will follow in the rectory.

(And let's mark our calendars as well for the first "First Thursday" of the new year, January 6, 2000, and the service of Choral Evensong and Recital, which begins that evening at 8 p.m.)

St. Andrew's Church is located on the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenues. Office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call (412) 661-1245 for more information about any services or programs.

## **A COMMUNITY PORTRAIT - TOM DICKSON**

*Beth Foley-Saxon*

A neighborhood can be defined as the physical qualities or boundaries of a vicinity. The distinctive characteristics of an area distinguish it from another, giving definition and a unique identity to the locality. A neighborhood is born. Along with the physical structures that comprise a neighborhood, both organic and concrete, the residents help to shape the identity. But community, true community, which you hope is happening in your neighborhood, relies entirely on people. A community exists when people living in the same locality work together to maintain or improve their neighborhood, thereby encouraging livability and safety, growth and prosperity.

In our Highland Park community of people, there are many folks who decide to play an active role in solving neighborhood and community problems. One such person who certainly deserves a nod of recognition is Tom Dickson, past-president and current board member of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (CDC).

Upon moving to Highland Park in 1990, Tom almost immediately took up the cause of taking absentee landlords to task for neglecting their properties. The CDC's strategy has been to facilitate the purchase of these neglected properties in Highland Park and renovate them. "Our goal has been to eliminate the blight that exists so there is good housing for everyone," said Tom. It appears that the organization's tenacity has yielded results, as the CDC has played a part in numerous upgrades of formerly troubled properties.

The matter of funding, though, is an ever-present challenge for the CDC, as it is a "totally volunteer" organization. According to Tom, "we're always looking for new sources of funding...we'd like to see people give more." Tom is not worried, though, as he believes the organization is in good hands with current President Dave Hance at the helm.

Another neighborhood cause which Tom devotes his energy to is the Commercial District Committee, of which he is co-chairperson alongside Muzz Meyers. The committee is currently working on a plan to renovate the exterior of the Walnut Market Plaza in an effort to give the site an overall upgrade. The Committee under Tom's stewardship continues to work on luring viable, "anchor" businesses to the street with the goal of making Bryant a vital and thriving business district. That said, the group is hoping a family-style restaurant will take up residence on the street sometime soon.

If that weren't enough to keep Tom busy, he's signed on to assist in the development of a Highland Park website which will serve as a virtual town square, providing visitors with information on community events and local issues.

And just when you thought he couldn't be any busier, Tom is also beginning work on a proposal to rehabilitate the Farm House at Highland Park. The building has fallen into disrepair over the years, and many residents question whether it could be better utilized. Tom would welcome suggestions from those who are interested.

When I asked Tom what changes or progress he'd really like to see in Highland Park in the next ten years, he replied, "I hope we have a thriving business district that serves all of the residents in our community, and that the blight that exists has been eliminated." Enough said.

When he's not troubleshooting or working on developing his on-line brokerage business, Tom resides happily in Highland Park with his wife, Barb, and daughters, Chelsea, 6, and Cassandra, 3.

Thanks, Tom, for helping to make the community thing happen here in Highland Park.

If you'd like to contact Tom Dickson with ideas, suggestions or a desire to contribute, you may reach him via e-mail at: [perform@telerama.com](mailto:perform@telerama.com), or at his phone: 661-0879.

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## **SUPER PLAYGROUND RENEWAL**

*Marsha Dugan*

We're making good progress getting the Super Playground back in shape. On Saturday, October 23rd many neighborhood people and college students from Pitt, Chatham, Duquesne and CMU volunteered at the playground to do cleanup and the prep work so that we could apply the sealant. It was a pretty chilly day but we all managed to stay warm by working hard.

We got the playground all ready to apply the sealant but it rained over night so we were unable to complete the process the next day. Fortunately, the weather warmed up over the next few days, the wood dried, and Dave Sufrin and Steve Petler applied the sealant later in the week. Our next step is to replace the bad parts and make all the necessary repairs to get the playground in tip top shape for the spring. We have hired Gary Schulz, a local contractor known for his quality workmanship, to do the on going

inspection and repair work to the playground. He is currently in the process of ordering the needed parts to make the necessary repairs. Starting in the spring, he will be inspecting the playground every two weeks and quickly repairing anything that might be broken. Our hope is that this kind of regular inspection and maintenance will keep the Super Playground looking SUPER!

Steve Petler, Dave Sufrin and Marsha Dugan will be working together to make sure the Super Playground remains a valuable asset to our community. You can help by taking a few minutes to pick up litter when you are at the playground and volunteering to help on the annual maintenance days. We are grateful to Gary Schulz for being willing to take on the regular maintenance. If you see him working on the playground, say hello!

Finally, we want to thank everyone who participated in the work days. Your help was greatly appreciated!

\*\*\*\*

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The Next HPCC meeting is 7:15 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2000, at St. Andrew's

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<b>DECEMBER CALENDAR</b>	
December 3	Happy Hanukkah (Begins at Sundown)
<b>DECEMBER 10</b>	<b>FISH STOCKING, LAKE CARNEGIE, 11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>DECEMBER 11</b>	<b>PITTSBURGH CAMARATA HOLIDAY PROGRAM, 8:00 P.M., ST. ANDREW'S, ADMISSION</b>
<b>DECEMBER 14</b>	<b>A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS &amp; CAROLS, 8:00 P.M., PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, HICKS MEMORIAL CHAPEL</b>
<b>DECEMBER 20</b>	<b>RESERVATIONS FOR HPCC NIGHT AT ZOO LIGHTS ARE DUE</b>
<b>DECEMBER 21</b>	<b>CAROLS AROUND THE BONFIRE, 7:30 P.M., ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH YARD</b>
December 25	Merry Christmas
<b>DECEMBER 29</b>	<b>HPCC NIGHT AT ZOO LIGHTS, 6:30 P.M., RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</b>
January 1	Happy New Year