

HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club
Newsletter for
February 2000



Edited by Ollie Rieley

A Message from the President

Diane DeNardo

Greetings from Winterton Street. We were encouraged to think BIG. Last Fall, Mayor Tom Murphy announced a plan to give ten million dollars to the neighborhoods of Pittsburgh and, at a series of regional meetings, his representatives encouraged community leaders to think big. Councilman Jim Ferlo also encouraged the leadership of the HPCC and HPCDC to think big. It would have been impossible not to. Here was an opportunity for funding that doesn't come along every day. More importantly, the groundwork had already been done. The HPCC and HPCDC have been working for many years to encourage community redevelopment, spearhead investment projects, and to revitalize underserved or poorly maintained neighborhood assets.

Thinking big paid off. Council Jim Ferlo and Tom Dickson, past president of the HPCDC, announced at the January meeting that Highland Park will be receiving major funding to be divided among the Farmhouse, the fountain to be constructed at the entrance of Highland Park, and a re-development project(s) to be identified along Bryant Street.

Exciting things are about to happen in Highland Park and your input is welcome. If this were not enough good news, Tom Dickson and Rob Stephany outlined the current and future projects of the HPCDC. At this time, much of their work is concentrated in the 700 and 800 blocks of Mellon Street. The all-volunteer non-profit organization is working closely with East Liberty Development Inc. Take a drive through there now, it will look very different a year from now! The HPCDC is also spending much time and energy on the redevelopment of Bryant Street.

More good news: it was reported that a developer is close to taking ownership of the Callowhill apartment building which has sat vacant and boarded up since a fire made it uninhabitable. The developer in question has a reputation for being neighborhood sensitive.

An idea was presented by Tom and Rob that seemed to capture many people's interest. Other city neighborhoods have active community investment programs in which individual citizens pool their money, purchase a property, renovate it, put it on the market, and after it sells, take back their initial investment. What do they gain--not much in the way of interest, but a tremendous amount if you appreciate the redevelopment of blighted properties within your neighborhood. For those who can afford it, it is a way to take positive action and be pro-active. If such an idea interests you, you can call Tom Dickson at 362-9018 or Rob Stephany at 361-8061 for further details.

There was much discussion about the church at the corner of Stanton and Negley which has fallen into great disrepair. This is an important building at an important entrance into Highland Park. Does it qualify for such an investment from Highland Parkers? I can imagine any number of adaptive re-use projects which would maintain the historic character and integrity of the building.

Think big! What a great motto for a small community. The HPCDC will be holding its next meeting on February 24, 2000.

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HPCC Events in February

HPCC Meeting: February 17
Skating Party: February 20
HPCDC Meeting: February 27

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2000, AT ST. ANDREWS

“Problem Properties” Forum

Kathy Ziegler

In December, I attended an informal discussion on “Problem Properties” co-sponsored by the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh and the Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC).

Problems addressed were vacant lots, property maintenance, vacant property, and owner-renter issues. Community organizations from in and around Pittsburgh gathered to address these issues and share their creative and successful solutions. As a result, each of the issues was listed with helpful solutions and recommendations, resource contact names and phone numbers.

For example, vacant lots might be adopted as vegetable/flower gardens by a block or community volunteer group such as YouthWorks, or the United Way Day of Caring could clean up problem areas and help repair homes of low income property owners and the elderly. How to organize “Block Clubs” to improve blight and other problems on blocks was discussed. This is an approach that can also aid “Block Watch” efforts.

In addition, any Pittsburgh resident can get professional, low cost (for a fee of \$50 or less, depending on income) help planning home renovations. A volunteer professional will come to your house, discuss your plans to fix old siding, to add a bathroom or other room, or whatever project you have in mind.

The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh’s Renovation Information Network can help plan the project before you call a contractor. Contact them at 391-4333.

For more details, contact Kathy Ziegler at 363-1252



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Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195

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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 Peltler 363-3978

Yard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830

Voice Mail: Paula Flaherty 361-2203

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THE HOME DEPOT OPENS FIRST URBAN PITTSBURGH STORE

Grand Opening Will Create 200 Local Jobs and Provide Unprecedented Customer Service

Peabody High School Graduates!

Anne Franks

Thanks to those of you who have responded to our request for names and addresses of Peabody alumni. This is an ongoing project, so I hope to hear from more of you now that the busy holiday season is behind us. Please take a minute and let me know your current address and phone number, and the names and addresses of any of your classmates. We are also looking for a group of people to help organize a Peabody Alumni Association, so if you would like to become involved, please let me know. To the class of 1950, a reunion is being planned! You may contact me for further information.

Peabody High School
515 N. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh PA 15206
Attention: Anne Franks
(412)665-2072
Email: afranks@pps.pgh.pa.us

Highland Park Skating Party

Diane DeNardo

Sunday, February 27th, 4:00 - 6:30 P.M.
Schenley Park Skating Rink
Adults-\$3.50 Children-\$2.50
Skate Rental-\$2.00
Call 422-6547 for directions to the rink.

Join your Highland Park neighbors for a fun afternoon of ice skating. We are not taking reservations, just show up, pay at the

St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services - February

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.forministry.com/15206saec

gate and lace up those skates!

EAST LIBERTY, Pa. The Home Depot, North America's largest home improvement retailer, will open its first urban Pittsburgh store in East Liberty, 400 North Highland Avenue, on Thursday, February 10. The new store will employ approximately 200 associates and will generate significant local sales and property tax revenues.

"The city of Pittsburgh is an area that has a tremendous potential for growth," says Ed Egerton, manager of the East Liberty store. "Our managers and associates are excited about the chance to serve the East Liberty community - and to set new local standards in terms of customer service, product selection, and pricing policy."

Measuring approximately 114,140 square feet, with a 15,165-square-foot garden center, the East Liberty store will stock approximately 40,000 different products, including home improvement and lawn/garden supplies.

These products will be sold to local "do-it-yourselfers," as well as home improvement, construction and building maintenance professionals. Reflecting The Home Depot's commitment to customer service, the East Liberty store will offer regularly scheduled "how-to" clinics, where customers can learn to tackle home improvement projects free of charge.

The store also will feature a professionally staffed design center that offers free consultations for many home improvement projects, from lighting recommendations to computer-assisted design for kitchens and bathrooms.

The Home Depot has been named "America's Most Admired Specialty Retailer" by Fortune magazine for six consecutive years, in part because of its progressive corporate culture. With a philanthropic budget of \$15 million for 1999, the company believes in directing money back to the communities it serves, and in addressing the interests of its associates through its unique Matching Gift Program. Team Depot, an organized employee volunteer effort, was developed in 1992 to encourage hands-on involvement within local communities.

Founded in 1978, The Home Depot's stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "HD," and the company also is included in Standard and Poor's 500 Index. With the opening of the new East Liberty store, The Home Depot will operate more than 910 stores in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and Chile.

What's New at Peabody

Noel Alston

Once again, we would like to contribute information to the Highland Park Community Club Newsletter to let you know the exciting news here at Peabody. As we complete the first half of the school year, students are participating in a wide range of activities.

- The students in the Peabody Information Technology Program recently held a raffle to raise money for the program. The top prize in the raffle was a computer built and programmed by students in Mr. Jeff Lucas' computer class. Students began the project in September and finished the computer in December. Senior Katie Barksdale won the computer.
- Peabody's literary magazine, *Beyond 1999* received First Place with Special Merit from the American Scholastic Press Association. Highland Park residents and 1999 Peabody High School graduates, Andy Artz and Ben Petrosky received the Gold Circle award from the Columbia Press Association for the title and contents page design.
- In keeping with the tradition of Peabody's Mock Trial team, this year the team will be competing against Upper St. Clair High School. Social Studies teacher Mr. David Rennhoff works with ten Peabody students in preparation for the final competition in February at the City County Building.
- The boys' basketball team recently participated in two basketball tournaments. The first allowed the team to travel to Florida to compete in the "Walt Disney World Classic". The second was held here at Peabody during the winter vacation. The "Kwanza Tournament" lasted two days and our team won first place.
- Twenty-four Peabody High School students will be participating in the annual "Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest". The event is sponsored by the Pittsburgh Public Theater and allows students to perform selected Shakespearean scenes and monologues. The students will have the opportunity to work with professional actors from the Pittsburgh Public Theater to prepare for their performance. Students will perform at the O'Reilly Theater on February 8, 2000. Sophomore English teacher, Ms. Melissa Pearlman is assisting the students at Peabody.

There are many different programs going on here at Peabody. We encourage all 8th grade students and their parents to schedule a visit. You may contact the main office at 665-2050.

Around St. Andrew's

Bruce Robison

The month of February begins at St. Andrew's on the "First Thursday," February 3rd, at 8 p.m., with a service of Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Presentation, featuring St. Andrew's Choir, and then with a recital after the service, with well-known Pittsburgh pianist Linda Morgan-Ellison presenting a program of Beethoven's piano music. A reception follows the recital, and all are invited.

On Sunday afternoon, February 6th, at 4 p.m., the newly-restored Apostle Windows in the north and south aisles of St. Andrew's Church will be dedicated at a special choral service. The Highland Park Community Club and many neighbors and friends have contributed to this great project, and all are indeed invited to join us for the occasion.

On Sunday evening, February 13th, the Rev. Maureen Waun will present an evening Adult Forum to talk about her recent book, "More Than Welcome," a caring and interesting study of the ministry of the churches to persons of the gay, lesbian, and transgendered communities. The evening begins with a potluck dinner (bring something to share!) at 6 p.m. and with the Forum to begin at 7 p.m. All are invited, and guests may join us for the dinner or simply arrive at 7 p.m. for the program.

A special event in the wider St. Andrew's family is on the calendar for Sunday morning, February 27th, when Patricia Stone--daughter of HPCC members Sid and Joan Morris--will speak at the 10 a.m. "Coffee and" program time and at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services concerning her recent experiences for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Benin, West Africa.

Sunday services at St. Andrew's include the Holy Communion at 9 a.m. and choral Morning Prayer at 11 a.m., with Holy Communion at both services on the first Sunday of each month. Wednesday morning services of the Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. are followed by an informal Bible Study. We have a regular program of Church School and Youth activities for young people and offer many opportunities for worship, education, and community outreach--and we're always glad to meet and assist, when we can, our Highland Park neighbors. Feel free to call the Church Office (661-1245) for information at any time.

Commercial District Tidbits

Kathy Ziegler

1. Pino's Pizza, 5808 Bryant (formerly Costas Drapery): The owners, Joe and Jennifer Mico, have a lot on their plate: a new home, new baby, two successful pizza restaurants; Pino's Pizzeria in Point Breeze and Pino's Pizza Kitchens, Inc. in Squirrel Hill.

The Micos remain true to their commitment to Highland Park. They are excited to have a family focused restaurant on Bryant Street with headquarters for the three operations on the second floor. Cash flow is the holdup. The Forbes Ave. Pino's is in the black after one year in operation- earlier than expected - and the Reynolds Street Pizzeria continues to do well. Hopefully the money issues will be resolved this year so we can soon taste the high quality fare the Mico's are known for.

2. Enrico's Tazza d'Oro: Owner Amy Enrico (362-3676) and Renee Sarracino of Club One (362-4806) have coordinated neighborhood walks every Tuesday evening at 7:30 P.M. All those interested meet at the Coffee shop where the route (easy to more difficult) and length of the walk (one hour or less) is decided - depending on the group's abilities. Because of the response, another night might be added.

Friday evenings alternately feature a musical performance or poetry reading with open mike 7-9 P.M. No cover charge. Amy is considering a night of playing board games, a pasta night and another featuring a soup and sandwich social.

3. Café Baci (361-8060) The winter schedule is: dinners from 5:30 P.M. Thursday, Friday, Saturday with jazz each night from 8:00 P.M. to Midnight.

Thursday & Saturday - Hill Jordan Trio

Friday - Colter Harper Trio

Note: Friday February 11th features Harold Betters.

4. Nuin Center, (661-6108): April - December: ITP (Integral Transformative Practice) developed by George Leonard and Michael Murphy will be a nine month community program in Pittsburgh to bring forth one's potential. Call the facilitator Michael Mervosh, licenced psychologist (363-1530) or the Center for fee and details of this unique growth experience.

For yoga classes, messages and other activities, check the web site, www.nuincenter.com or call the center Monday through Friday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.m.

***SKIERS THINK SNOW!
OTHERS THINK SPRING!***

The Highland Park Community Development Corporation

conveys its thanks to the following generous contributors:

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Nancy and Robert Staresinic
Lufti and Molly Taleb
Jean and Clarke Thomas
R. Dell and Kathy Ziegler

All donations help us toward our goal to rehabilitate substandard housing stock and redevelop resources in our neighborhood - and are tax deductible. If you wish to assist us in our work, you are welcome to come to our meetings which are held on the fourth Thursday of each month in Brooks Hall at St. Andrew's. Contributions will be gratefully accepted at HPCDC, P.O. Box 4866, East Liberty Station, Pgh., PA 15206. Please call Judy Wolfe (HPCDC Treasurer) if you have any questions (441-7830).

Block Watch Program

Jan Stayianos

At the November HPCC meeting, C.O.P. Officer Christine Scalise spoke about crime and the need for better crimewatch in our neighborhood. In spite of the figures in the news that show a decline in certain crimes locally and nationally, crime is up in our area.

I am working to get the Blockwatch Program in Highland Park back on track. First, I am trying to locate existing Blockwatch representatives. If you have been or are doing the job for your block, call me at 363-8208. At the same time, I am asking anyone who is interested in being a Blockwatch representative for their block to give me a call. The responsibility doesn't have to be a big one. You would need to get some information from the people on your block and let them know you are the representative that they are to report incidents to after they report them to 911.

I will call occasional meetings so that we can share ideas with each other. The main goal is to get people looking out for one another and reporting anything suspicious to you. It's a proven fact that the Blockwatch program works.

Please assist me in strengthening the Blockwatch Program in Highland Park. Give me a call and I will help you to get started.

Once I have a roster of current and new Blockwatch representatives, we will again meet with C.O.P. Officer Scalise.

Editor's Note: Jan Stayianos was elected to the HPCC board in September and volunteered to serve as Chair of the Blockwatch Committee at that time. She has served as the Blockwatch representative for the 800 block of Farragut Street for many years. The HPCC appreciates her commitment to rejuvenating this important public safety initiative that affects the entire neighborhood.

Coming HPCC Programs

Bruce Robison

The following programs are planned for the February and March meetings:

The February 17 Meeting program will be provided by Nikki Monroe and Students of Peabody High School who will share some of the exciting things going on at Peabody with us.

March 16 will feature Jeffery Dorsey of the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative telling about his organization.

Both programs sound interesting and informative. Be sure to come

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to the meetings to learn what's going on!!

Highlights of the January 20 HPCC Meeting

Diane DeNardo & Ollie Rieley

The meeting was called to order by President Diane DeNardo at 7:30 PM.

Reports:

COP: Officer Scalise reported that Enrico's Tazza d'Oro was burglarized early one morning in early January. The cash register was stolen after a forced entry. The modus operandi suggested that the perpetrator was the same one who had previously burglarized Walnut Market. Although an arrest was made in the Walnut Market case, the suspect was released because the witness declined to testify.

Officer Scalise noted that elementary precautions such as keeping doors and first floor windows locked can deter burglars. Also if neighbors are watchful for each other they can do a lot to reduce break-ins; if you watch out for your neighbor, your neighbor is likely to return the favor.

Councilman Ferlo questioned Officer Scalise why crime statistics aren't being reported to the meeting anymore. Officer Scalise indicated that she does not receive them and doesn't have access to the database on which they are kept. Councilman Ferlo noted the value of alerting the community to both the number of incidents reported and the arrest activity. Residents would be aware to take precautions and would also be aware that a significant number of arrests are occurring.

Membership: Kelly Meade reported that there are currently over 600 memberships. She will give a full report at the next meeting.

President's Comments: Diane thanked MaryLee Snuffer for organizing the first annual HPCC night at Zoo Lights. Over seventy people attended the event. There was a group rate discount and the HPCC provided hot chocolate. Due to the popularity of this event, an HPCC skating party will be organized at Schenley Park.

Diane reported that she completed the application for the Public Art Pittsburgh program which was discussed at the November meeting and it has been submitted. The City of Pittsburgh will be meeting in late January to study the proposals.

Virginia and John DiPucci have offered their home for the annual HPCC party that usually takes place in December. Paula Flaherty will organize and publicize the event.

Diane reported that the Mayor's office called about changes to zoning. Highland Park's re-mapping was completed before other neighborhoods got started. This topic will be discussed at an upcoming HPCC meeting to be announced.

Diane and Tom Dickson, representing the HPCC and HPCDC, met with Commander Bryant of the Zone 5 Police Station. The meeting covered many topics including crime in the

neighborhood, speeding on Highland and Negley Avenues (with a special concern for student and school bus safety), increased patrols on Bryant Street (particularly during peak restaurant hours) and a need for increased patrols in the park. Diane reported that Commander Bryant was very responsive to the concerns raised and courses of action were detailed. Several of those present at the meeting indicated that they had noticed increased patrols in the neighborhood. Councilman Ferlo suggested from the floor that more stop signs are not needed as much as more enforcement of the posted 25 MPH speed limits on both Highland and Negley. He suggested that another meeting be called with Director Reginella of the Public Works Department and Commander Costa of the Traffic Division to discuss appropriate measures to reduce speeding. Commander Bryant was informed of HPCC and HPCDC activities and plans which affect public safety issues and public relations for the neighborhood.

Program:

The program for the meeting was a report by Tom Dickson and Rob Stephany on the projects of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation. The goals of the HPCDC are to redevelop and revitalize Highland Park residential housing stock. The exciting news from the presentation is summarized in the Presidents message on Page 1.

Tom passed around a "draft" of a banner to be hung from light poles around the neighborhood. Several comments were presented from the floor to be given to the designers of the banner.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Highland Park Resident David Evans Earns Jefferson Award

David Evans, Highland Park resident earned a Jefferson Award recently for his volunteer service with the Aspinwall Meals on Wheels program. Mr. Evans, who is 104, has been a longtime participant in the program. He was featured in a story on the front page of the Magazine Section of the Post Gazette on January 5. Congratulations and thank you to Mr. Evans for his continuing efforts from his neighbors in Highland Park.



**St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church**

5801 Hampton Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206-1615
Office 412-661-1245
Fax 412-661-0184

The Rev. Bruce Monroe Robison, Rector

November 16, 1999
The Highland Park Community Club
Diane C. DeNardo, President
P.O. Box 5036
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

Dear Diane and All Members of the HPCC,

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your contribution of \$250, received as a contribution for our Apostle Window Restoration project. I and we all truly appreciate your generous encouragement and support. It's a wonderful and most meaningful gift, received as a sign of our common life here in this wonderful neighborhood.

Even as I write this note, the reinstallation of our restored windows is taking place out in the church--which is a great conclusion to this long project! We'll be working on the window rededication service early next year, and as a member of the HPCC I will be especially proud and pleased to see the Club listed among the donors. We'll be sure, of course, that the date and time of that service is well-publicized in the HPCC Newsletter.

Again, with thanks for this gift, for your friendship--and with all best wishes for you and the Club through the holidays ahead!

Affectionately,

Bruce Monroe Robison

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Aging

From the Internet!

This will give you an idea of the culture of the students today...and make you feel a little old. Just in case you weren't feeling too old today, this will certainly change things. Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mind-set of that year's incoming freshmen. Here is this year's list as transmitted around the net in an e-mail:

The people who are starting college this fall across the nation were born in 1982. They have no meaningful recollection of the Reagan Era and probably did not know he had ever been shot. They were prepubescent when the Persian Gulf War was waged. Black Monday, 1987 is as significant to them as the Great Depression. There has been only one Pope. They were 11 when the Soviet Union broke apart and do not remember the Cold War. They have never feared a nuclear war. They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up. Tianamen Square means nothing to them. The Vietnam War is as ancient history to them as WW I, WW II and the Civil War. They have no idea that Americans were ever held hostage in Iran.

Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic. Atari predates them, as do vinyl albums. The expression "you sound like a broken record" means nothing to them. They have never owned a record player. They have likely never played Pac Man and have never heard of Ping-Pong. They may have never heard of an 8 track. The Compact Disc was introduced when they were one year old. As far as they know, stamps have always cost about 33 cents. They have always had an answering machine. Most have never seen a TV set with only 13 channels, nor have they seen a black-and-white TV. They have always had cable. There has always been VCRs, but they have no idea what BETA is. They cannot fathom not having a remote control. They were born the year that Walkmen were introduced by Sony. Roller-skating has always meant inline for them.

Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show. They have no idea when or why Jordache jeans were cool. Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave. They have never seen Larry Bird play. They never took a swim and thought about Jaws. They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are. They don't know who Mork was or where he was from. They never heard: "Where's the beef?", "I'd walked a mile for a Camel", or "de plane, de plane." They do not care who shot J. R., and have no idea who J. R. is. The Titanic was found? They thought we always knew where it was. Michael Jackson has always been white. Kansas, Chicago, Boston, America, and Alabama are places, not groups. McDonalds never came in Styrofoam containers. There has always been MTV. They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

Do you feel old yet?

NEW MEMBERS OF HPCC:

Kelly Meade

The following new members have joined in the past few months:

(Ed. Note: Space restrictions sometimes necessitate delay in publication of new member lists, and I'm sure I have overlooked some. Please forgive if that is the case or you feel these are not

Katherine Carlson & Geoffrey Hitch	Sylvia Jessey & Leon Brock
Shawn & Carolyn Allen	Carlos Canuelas & Shallini Puri
John McHugh & Ruth Baldwin	Rene Sarracino
Alison & Rob Schwartz	Rachel Bernatz
Nancilee Burzachechi	Daavid Irvin
Jocelyn R. Chapin	Tyra Lancaster
Alberta Lofink Foster	Mary Seeley & Scott Hudson
Donald McIlvane	Teake Zuidema
Andrea & Robert Juhala	Walter & Lonnie Boninger
John & Shirley Porter	Connie L. Robinson
Patrizia Costa & Eldo Frezza	German & Irene Matos
Kathleen Gefsky	Carole Katz
Jacque Rowden	Madonna Talmadge
Mercedes Taylor	John R. Morgan
Frank Allen Mino	Tina Hines
Caroline Black	Roberta Shope
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The Next HPCC meeting is 7:15 p.m., Thursday, February 17, 2000, at St. Andrew's

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 6	DEDICATORY SERVICE - APOSTLE WINDOWS - ST. ANDREW'S, 4:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY 10	HOME DEPOT EAST LIBERTY STORE OPENS!
FEBRUARY 17	HPCC MEETING, ST. ANDREW'S, 7:15 P.M.
FEBRUARY 24	HPCC MEETING, ST. ANDREW'S, 7:30 P.M.
FEBRUARY 27	HPCC ICE SKATING PARTY, SCHENLEY PARK, 4:00 - 6:30 P.M., ADMISSION