

HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club
Newsletter for
February 2002



Edited by Ollie Rieley

Highland Park BioBlitz Coming -- May, 2002

Mary Beth Steisslinger

The fourth BioBlitz in Pittsburgh will be in Highland Park this spring, May 17 and 18. There have been three successful BioBlitz's in the city's other major parks, Riverview, Frick and Schenley. A BioBlitz is an educational and scientific event that explores the biodiversity of plant and animal life in a park over a 24-hour period. Pittsburgh BioBlitzes have enjoyed great participation of scientists from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and from area universities and regional conservation organizations. Hundreds of school children and their families have learned about the wonderful biological treasures that can be found right here in Pittsburgh. The purpose behind a BioBlitz is to raise public awareness about biodiversity in general and specifically the issues of biodiversity in urban settings. With this small "snap-shot" of scientific knowledge, the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and other park supporters can lobby for funding and resources to conduct more thorough biological assessments and to conduct ecological restoration of our parks.

The BioBlitz in Highland Park will begin on Friday, May 17th with an educational event for fourth and fifth-graders from Fulton and Dilworth schools in the Highland Park Neighborhood. These students will be joined by students from the Pittsburgh Gifted Center. In all, more than 200 elementary students will enjoy activities on biodiversity presented by the Pittsburgh Zoo, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Phipps Conservatory, Pittsburgh Voyager, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (Beechwood Farms) and Citiparks.

On Saturday, May 18th, BioBlitz activities will be open to the public. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy invites families to come out to the park and learn more about the plants, animals and natural features of this beautiful place. Activities will include observing scientists at work examining and cataloging biological

finds, nature hikes led by local experts, volunteer activities focusing on ecological park restoration, food and music. **The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will host a volunteer session specifically for Highland Park Community Club Members from 10:30 am to 12 noon that day.** Come and help us rebuild the park we all love: Learn about and work to remove invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Ailanthus, Grapevine, and Honeysuckle. Help stop slope erosion by learning to build check-dams in gullies. Work with members of the Student Conservation Association to lay erosion control matting and plant native species.

There are 30 spots for volunteers from the HPCC. Space is limited because of tool and safety restrictions, so please RSVP if interested. Contact Mary Beth Steisslinger or Erin Clymer at the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, (412) 682-PARK (7275). Note: Work will be moderate to strenuous, so children must be 10 or older and accompanied by an adult.

Aside: The City of Pittsburgh supplies tents for the BioBlitz each year. If someone from the Highland Park Community Club would like to organize a fundraising event or dinner for the Club and the Park, the tents are available free to the Community. Anyone interested should contact the HPCC ((412) 734-5261) or the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy ((412) 682-PARK (7275)).

Think About:

Attending the Party — See Page 2

**Attending the next meeting — February 21, 7:30
at St. Andrew's**

Helping on the Community Plan — See Page 7

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2002, AT ST. ANDREWS

serving the Club — See Page 7

DUBBLEBEEES

Dog Grooming



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After Holiday Party--

Mark Your Calendar for February 17

Tania Grubbs

We are planning a gala After-the-Holidays Party 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. on February 17 at Sitar of Pittsburgh, the new Indian restaurant on Bryant Street. For those who haven't been to Sitar yet, this will be a great opportunity to enjoy their Indian dishes with friends and neighbors. And those of you who previously sampled their fine cuisine will be glad for the excuse to return. There will be a modest fee of \$7.95 for the dinner. Please RSVP to Sitar at (412) 365-0300 by February 10. A follow-up mailing will give more details. See you there!

Treasurer's Report

The following summarizes the year to date income and expenses as developed from the treasurer's report presented at the January 17 meeting:

Year to Date Income (all sources): \$14,848.00

Year to date Expenses (all sources) 5,589.12

Current balance in all accounts: \$17,564.07

This includes the house tour, which had the following results:

Income: \$5,202.00

Expense 3,600.00

Profit \$1,602.00

H. P. C. C.

Officers, Directors & Committees

President: Brandon Weber (720-0906)

President Elec: ----

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

Treasurer: Kelly Villi (361-7669)

Secretary: Paula Flaherty (361-2203)

Past President: Tania Grubbs (661-4054)

Directors

Amy Enrico 362-2970 (02)

Paula Flaherty 361-2203 (02)

Karen Raffensberger 363-9750 (02)

Bruce Robison 361-4892 (02)

Jan Stajanos 363-8208 (02)

Kevin Bivins

Debbie Hart (03)

Christina Lagnese 441-6696 (03)

Kate Zober 661-9312 (03)

Bob Staresinic 441-8972 (03)

Suzanne Colvin (04)

Rudy Maceyko (04)

Mary Beth Steisslinger

Ed Sullivan 361-1101 (04)

Dana Thomas 665-2992 (04)

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: Kevin Bivins

Hospitality: Kate Zober 661-9312

House Tour: Dana Thomas 720-0906

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: Dave Hance 361-4935

Super Playground: -----

Yard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830

Voice Mail: Paula Flaherty 361-2203

Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972

Zoning: Brandon Weber 720-0906

Voice Mail 734-5261

C. O. P. 665-3644 - Zone 5 665-3605

HPCCD/HPCC Web: www.highlandparkpa.com

Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted

Highlights of January 17 Meeting

Ollie Rieley

President Brandon Weber called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

C.O.P. Report: Officer Scalise reported that Zone 5 is looking for input to help determine three "burning" issues that should be addressed for correction. Suggestions were: Problem tenants in Section 8 housing, abandoned houses and garages, graffiti, etc. Residents are invited to call Zone 5 and identify issues to be considered for the list. The phone number of Zone 5 is (412) 665-3605. Officer Scalise provided crime statistics for October and November. There were some complaints about tow trucks recklessly driving in the neighborhood. Councilman Ferlo mentioned that he had proposed a bill requiring tow truck licensing; he requested residents to promote the bill. It was noted that "At The Park" had closed as a bar and that the lottery, also owned by Dino, had moved into the first floor of "At the Park". In addition, there are plans to sell six packs from the second floor of the building. Councilman Ferlo noted that there are administrative changes being considered for the C.O.P. operation; he suggested the club send a representative to a meeting considering changes, if invited.

Community Development Corporation: Dave Hance, President of the CDC, provided a brief update of current activities of the CDC. They currently have several houses to refurbish. They are following and encouraging business development in the community. Refurbishment of the Park entry fountain and gardens is scheduled to start this summer. The proposal to list the community in the National Register of Historic Places is almost ready to submit. And effort on the community plan is ready to begin in earnest. Ed D'Alessandro has been hired as the coordinator for developing the plan. See separate article.

Councilman Ferlo: Councilman Ferlo suggested that the club send a letter to the city administration supporting placing an office for the CDC in the Farmhouse. He is concerned that some city function might get all the space available in the building by default unless people speak up. He also suggests that the club support the removal of the Quonset hut adjacent to the farm house. With the increased playground size he worries that city traffic to and from the Quonset might be a safety hazard to the children in the playground. Councilman Ferlo announced that his office is granting \$5,000 in City funds to the club to help defray expenses of community activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt, the Halloween Parade and the Salsa Party.

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy: Mary Beth Steisslinger presented a brief overview of the Bioblitz, planned to be held in Highland Park May 17 and 18 2002. A bioblitz is an educational and scientific even that explores the biodiversity of plant and animal life in a park over a 24 hour period. The results of the Bioblitz are used to lobby for funds to conduct more thorough biological assessments and to conduct ecological restoration in the park. Volunteer help is needed. See separate article for details.

Super Playground: It is noted there still is no chair for this important activity of the club. Brandon will set up a meeting of interested persons to try to reinvigorate this committee. Councilman Ferlo noted that he believes the City should perform routine cleanup and maintenance of the Playground, since it is in the City's park. Councilman Ferlo would like to be included in the meeting.

Commercial District: Kathy Ziegler noted that Food, Glorious Food is doing very well. Current classes are full and they are hiring additional personnel!

Public Safety: Mercine Nefores noted that zone 5 is initiating a gang prevention program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Nobel Peace Laureates Become Part of World Peace Book by Highland Park Author

janet jai

"For 2-1/2 days I sat in a room in Oslo, Norway with the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Lech Walesa, Elie Wiesel, Jody Williams, Mairead Maguire and twenty other Nobel Peace Laureates, listening as they discussed war and peace in the 21st century," says janet jai, a Pittsburgher who recently returned from the Nobel Prize Centennial in Norway. "For me, it was the event of a lifetime. To think that the Nobel Peace Prize has been given out for 100 years, yet this is the first time this many Peace Laureates have ever met together."

jai attended the event as part of the research for her book *World Peace: A Beginner's Guide*. She was also writing an article for the Christian Science Monitor on the roots of terrorism. Said jai, "While the Laureates disagree about appropriate immediate responses to terrorism, many believe that long-term solutions lie in eliminating poverty and injustice, in education, and in the actions of ordinary people."

jai began writing *World Peace: A Beginner's Guide* last June. Funding from the Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Divine Providence enabled her to attend the Nobel Centennial. More information about jai's book is available at www.poem-of-the-month.com.

Peabody News

Anne Franks

Happy New Year to our neighbors in Highland Park! Thank you all for your support of Peabody during the past year.

Meanwhile, the coming of the new year means that Peabody seniors have now sent their college applications in and are waiting (nervously) to hear about their acceptances.

We thought you might be interested to know some of the service activities Peabody students have been involved with recently:

Peabody students Jeff Woodward, Jessica Twyman, John Niedbala, Joe Schneider, Jeff Thorne, and Kristen Kohler assisted Three Rivers Connect at the Parental Stress Center in East Liberty to prepare computers to be donated to ten non-profit agencies in the East End.

Peabody Advisory Council students Natasha Ricketts, Martay Isaac, Carl Jay, Katie Gillespie, Jeff Woodward, Sheyaqua Bailey, Careema Bell, Matt Gamret and Maurice Sales organized a Toys for Tots drive at the school. Through the generous contributions from students and staff, the school was able to purchase \$520 worth of toys for needy children. Ten other students volunteered at the Toys for Tots drop off site downtown, wrapping and packaging donated gifts.

Eighteen Peabody students, in partnership with students from North Hills High School, through the Changes program, volunteered at the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank packaging food for families in need in the Pittsburgh area. The Changes program is a student exchange program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Service Learning Alliance to foster service learning among high school students from diverse communities.

In response to Superintendent Thompson's request, the Peabody National Honor Society organized a very successful emergency food drive for the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Peabody High School hosted the first community wide meeting of

the East Liberty Council in November. A number of student volunteers helped to set up the meeting space, welcomed community members to the school and assisted with the meeting.

Peabody senior Katie Gillespie has been selected as a 2002 Community Champion for her volunteer service to the community. The Community Champions are part of the Jefferson Awards. The Pittsburgh School District also honored Katie in recognition of her being a Community Champion and for her community service work with a Distinguished Achievement Award. Congratulations and thanks, Katie!



Happy Birthday, Abe and George

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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.

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Commercial District News

Kathy Ziegler

- Dana Jones Day Care is a "licensed family facility" located at 5813 Bryant St. Hours are 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. They have space for six children, ages six weeks to ten years. Call *82 (412) 441-1706 for more information.
- Toddlin Time Day Care is a "licensed group facility" located at 5806 Bryant St. Hours are 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. They have a maximum of 12 children ages two and above. Call (412) 362-9022 for more information.
- Food Glorious Food is scheduling new cooking classes for February to April. Offerings are available for children and adults. In addition to cooking classes, they offer catering, cookbooks, cooking supplies, gourmet food items, cooking demonstration parties in your home or business and more. 5906 Bryant St., call (412) 363-5330 or (412) 363-5440 for information.
- Sandi's Deli has new owners. Coleen and Robert Knecht recently took over this operation on Mellon St. They are slowly making changes to improve service available. Now they are offering fruits and vegetables and new deli items.

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Building renovations are planned in the near future. 925 Mellon St. Call (412) 661-4040 or (412) 661-4060 for information.

Union Project expanding Advisory Board

The Union Project has named Brad Siemens the first non-founding member of its Advisory Board. Mr. Siemens is currently a development associate at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. He has previous fundraising experience internationally in Thailand, and domestically in Austin, Texas and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A graduate of Goshen College (Goshen, IN), Mr. Siemens is also a freelance feature writer published in the Bangkok Post and Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

The addition of Mr. Siemens is the first in an effort to expand the Union Project Advisory Board to reach broader social and professional circles within the neighborhoods of East Liberty, Highland Park, and Morningside.

The Union Project has also taken on two new part-time volunteer staff people. James Eash, a current Mennonite Urban Corps volunteer also working at the Kelly Strayhorn Theatre in East Liberty, has been volunteering since the beginning of September. Mr. Eash has been helping to coordinate volunteer labor and is assisting with program planning. Peter Eash-Scott, a pastoral intern at Pittsburgh Mennonite Church, will be assisting other Union Project Advisory Board members as a member of the new Union Project Community Committee. This committee has been created in order to aid the Union Project in discovering how the its building can be utilized in order to serve the community in the best possible way.

The Union Project is working to restore the former Union Baptist Church at the corner of Negley and Stanton Avenues, and at the nexus of the three diverse East End neighborhoods of East Liberty, Highland Park, and Morningside. After renovation, the historic building will be used as a community art center and meeting place for members of the community.

The Union Project is restoring neighborhood space to connect, create, and celebrate.

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February at St. Andrew's

Bruce Robison

All in our Highland Park neighborhood are warmly invited to the annual St. Andrew's Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Party and Pancake Dinner on Tuesday evening, February 12, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. An evening of food, fun, and the traditional crowning of the King and Queen of Mardi Gras! (And, for fun, we're encouraged to wear costumes or other festive attire)

The observance of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13, with services of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 7:15 a.m., 12 Noon, and (with Choir) 8 p.m.

Other events of special interest to the wider community include the lovely "every First Thursday of the Month" candlelight service of Choral Evensong at 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 8, with a musical recital by youth organists, including St. Andrew's Organ Scholar and Highland Park resident Ian Everhart.

Other Musical Programs of interest during the month include a "Superbowl Sunday Afternoon" recital by the Urban Sky Consort, entitled "In the Voices of Women," at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February

3rd. At the end of the month, on Sunday, February 24th, there will be a 3 p.m. "Afternoon of Chamber Music," featuring the Paul Shepard Piano Trio.

And another fun neighborhood event, to which all are invited, is our monthly "Cinema St. Andrew's," as we gather informally to see a classic film and enjoy sharing a potluck dessert and "movie snack" reception. In February we will get together on Saturday, February 9, at 7 p.m.

St. Andrew's has been a part of the Highland Park neighborhood for nearly a century, and it is a part of our mission to be an asset to the people of the community. We are always available to help with special concerns--the baptism of a baby, the celebration of a marriage, pastoral care at the time of an illness or if there is a death in the family. Our regular Sunday services are Holy Communion at 9 a.m. in the St. Andrew's Chapel and 11 a.m., with Choir and programs for Children and Youth at the later service. A midweek service of Holy Communion, followed by the Rector's Bible Study, is held on Wednesday mornings, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - Noon and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., and our phone is (412) 661-1245.

New in your neighborhood...



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We just moved in. We're western Pennsylvania's premier senior living provider - Highland Park Care Center. The 150-bed skilled nursing facility, at 745 North Highland Avenue, is conveniently located near major Pittsburgh hospitals and public transportation. Highland Park Care Center is newly renovated and features comfortable rooms, full-service rehabilitation and a Memory Impaired Center.

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Community Plan Update

Ollie Rieley

At the January 17 meeting, Dave Hance, President of the CDC, introduced Mr. Ed D'Alessandro and gave a brief overview of the status of the Community Plan. Mr. D'alessandro is a paid employee who will coordinate efforts on the community plan and organize information as it is collected. Mr. Hance passed around a scope of the process of developing the plan. The scope was prepared by Karen Brean Associates, a consultant hired to advise on the process.

An early step in the process is to organize a 10 to 15 person planning team selected from neighborhood stakeholders. An advisory team comprised agencies and stakeholders who are instrumental to the success and implementation of the plan will also be formed.

The process will develop or obtain information describing the current state of the neighborhood. It will develop lists of key issues to the neighborhood through focus groups and surveys. And finally key goals and strategies for moving ahead will be developed. A bar chart schedule was included with the scope showing an 18 month duration of the process.

An important early step is to establish the planning team. Mr. Hance invited interested persons to call him or Michael Johnson to volunteer. Mr Hance's phone is (412) 361-4935 and Michael Johnson's is (412) 4270. Call volunteer

2 6 8 -
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Editor's Thoughts -- Help Wanted

Ollie Rieley

As far as I can tell, we still need a Vice President/President Elect, a Chair for the Super Playground Committee, a Chair for the Yard Sale and a replacement for Brandon as chair of the Zoning Committee. All four of these positions are very important to the Club.

Needless to say, the president is the person who runs the monthly meetings and encourages the committees to do their things. The Super Playground is one of the very successful projects of the club. Routine cleanup of the area of the Playground should be performed by Citi-Parks personnel. The Committee checks that cleanups are indeed performed and annually holds a work day to fix things that have fallen into disrepair. There is a separate account to finance such needs as may arise. The Yard Sale is a major event which reaches many, many people outside of Highland Park and brings them in to our community hunting for bargains. People learn about us and the beautiful neighborhood in which we live. And they carry that word back to their own communities. Judy Wolfe has run the Sale for 10 or so years and is engaging in new activities in the CDC. Bob Staresinic has agreed to help for this year's sale, but she deserves replacement. Finally, the zoning committee interacts with the Pittsburgh City zoning board and represents us to them. Any significant change in usage of property comes before the board. It is vital that the club have a committee keeping tabs on what is going on and presenting our point of view on controversial issues.

Please pick one of these jobs and tell Brandon you'll do it! Your neighborhood needs you. You will enjoy working with your neighbors.

Pittsburgh Camerata Concert

Gail Luley

The Pittsburgh Camerata will perform at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton Street, on Saturday, March 2, 2002 at 8:00 PM. The 26 voice chamber choir will sing music requested by its audience on a survey taken in the spring of 2001. And what glorious music the Camerata's audience has selected: Claudio Monteverdi's "Magnificat" from Vespers (1610), Orlando di Lasso's "Magnificat" on "Dessus le marche d'Arras," two selections from Rachmaninov's Vespers and choral music by Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Weelkes and more. Tickets are \$15 and \$6 for students. Tickets for children in middle and elementary school, accompanied by an adult, are \$1. For more information, call the Camerata at (412) 424-5884 or visit their website at www.pittsburghcamerata.org



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The Next HPCC meeting is 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 21, 2002, at St. Andrew's

FEBRUARY CALENDAR	
FEBRUARY 2	GROUND HOG DAY - CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?
FEBRUARY 3	"SUPERBOWL SUNDAY AFTERNOON" RECITAL, URBAN SKY CONSORT, ST. ANDREW'S, 3:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY 17	AFTER-HOLIDAYS-PARTY, SITAR, 5:00-7:00 P.M., ADMISSION
FEBRUARY 21	HPCC MEETING, ST. ANDREW'S, 7:30 P.M.
FEBRUARY 24	AFTERNOON OF CHAMBER MUSIC, PAUL SHEPARD PIANO TRIO, ST. ANDREW'S, 3:00 P.M.
MARCH 2	PITTSBURGH CAMERATA CONCERT AT ST. ANDREW'S, 8:00 P.M., ADMISSION