

HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club
Newsletter for
July 2002



Edited by Ollie Rieley

Reservoir of Jazz - Eighth Season Coming in August

Kevin Amos Program Coordinator, Department of Parks & Recreation

I'm writing to let you know of our fantastic line-up for the 2002 Reservoir of Jazz Series (ROJ) and how you can be a part of this exciting event by becoming a "Friend of Reservoir of Jazz".

Friends

What is a "Friend of Reservoir of Jazz" you ask? In my talks with many of you, I heard that you would like to participate in this community event in some way but didn't know how you could help out. As a patron donor, your contribution will show your commitment to supporting our fine American art treasure.... Jazz.

Pittsburgh has played a major role in the development of this art form through the contributions of great East End jazz musicians such as Billy Strayhorn, Mary Lou Williams, Dodo Mamarosa, Ahmad Jamal, Dakota Staton, Billy Eckstein, Erroll Garner, and many others. The music has developed and grown with our country, capturing the spirit of our nation through its melding of cultures. This year's program presents a fine example of our musical "melting pot". The Latin Jazz sounds of Salsamba, traditional vocal styling of Sandy Staley and her quartet, driving Hard-Bop rhythms of RH Factor with Rodger Humphries, and the contemporary sounds of Michele Bensen, Kenny Blake, as well as electric violinist Rodney McCoy.

In return for your tax-deductible contribution as a "Friend of ROJ" you will receive:

- Verbal recognition of your name or business
- Recognition on lawn banner at concert site for contribution of \$50 or more.

Individual and business patron levels are: \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100.

We look forward to your participation in this year's event. Your support of the Highland Park community and this fantastic event will be greatly appreciated. For additional information about "Friends of ROJ" please contact us at (412) 255-8975.

This year's Line-up

Since 1995 Citiparks and the Highland Park Community Club have presented this high-energy program hosting some of the finest jazz musicians the area has to offer. Every Sunday in August music lovers bring out their blankets and picnic baskets for a tremendous evening of family entertainment.

The line-up of programs is (all programs begin at 5 p.m.):

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| August 4 | Salsamba |
| August 11 | Sandy Staley |
| August 18 | Rodney McCoy |
| August 25 | Rodger Humphries & RH Factor, Michelle Bensen & Kenny Blake (Special back to back performances from 5-8:30 p.m.) |

See you there!!!

This season is sponsored by the Highland Park Community Club, DUQ 90.5 FM, Renaissance Publications, Nationwide Insurance, Stanton-Negley Drug Store, and Enrico's Tazza D'Oro.

Summertime Picnic: August 15

The Hospitality and Program Committees (Kate and Bruce) are co-sponsoring an HPCC Summer Picnic in the St. Andrew's Churchyard on Thursday evening, August 15 -- from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (before the regular "Third Thursday" August meeting).

Each family is invited to bring a seasonally-appropriate salad, side dish, casserole, or main dish to share. If you'd like to bring along a grill or hibachi, please do . . .

And for dessert we'll have a "Build Your Own Sundae" table, hosted by St. Andrew's Church. And music, and fun, and other surprises . . . Mark calendars now.

Be there, or be square!

New Members Wanted

See Page 5

NO MEETING IN JULY

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2002, AT ST. ANDREWS

Weekly Highland Park Fitness Walks

Tuesday nights at Enrico's Tazza D'Oro Café & Espresso Bar
Renee Sarracino

Enrico's Tazza D'Oro Cafe & Espresso Bar hosts a weekly fitness walk from 7:30-8:30pm on Tuesdays. The moderate to moderately-fast paced walks begin and end at Enrico's located at 1125 N. Highland Ave. Club One's Fitness Director, Renee Sarracino, leads the fitness oriented walks through Highland Park neighborhoods and parks at no cost. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

For more information or questions please contact Renee Sarracino at Club One, 412-362-4806 or email: rsarracino@club1.cc

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Actual</u> Year to Date	<u>Budget</u> Fiscal Year
Income	\$22,739.00	\$26,125.00
Expense	\$17,504.50	\$26,835.00
Current Balance, All Accounts	\$14,819.28	

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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: Kate Zober 661-9312
Yard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830
Voice Mail: Paula Flaherty 361-2203
Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972
Zoning: Del Ziegler 363-0742

Voice Mail 734-5261

C. O. P. 665-3644 - Zone 5 665-3605
HPCDC/HPCC Web: www.highlandparkpa.com
Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted

Around St. Andrew's . . .

Bruce Robison

Summer services at St. Andrew's in July and August move to a special seasonal schedule, with a service of Holy Communion in the Chapel every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and a service of Morning Prayer (with music) at 10 a.m. (with Holy Communion also at that service on the first Sunday of each month). Nursery Care is available throughout the summer at the later service, and a fun Summer Church School program for children in pre-school and elementary grades is offered on Summer "Morning Prayer Sundays." St. Andrew's renowned Choir takes a summer break during these months, but services continue to include hymns and musical offerings by soloists and ensembles.

This summer around St. Andrew's has been and continues to be a time of many special events, including many baptisms, many festive weddings, high school and college graduation parties, and Sunday afternoon picnics in the Churchyard.

St. Andrew's Church has been a part of this Highland Park neighborhood, at the corner of North Euclid Avenue and Hampton Street, for nearly a century. All of our neighbors are invited to be in touch with us at any time. If there are pastoral needs we can assist with -- a baby to be baptized, a wedding to celebrate, a special visit at the time of an illness, or care and friendship at the time of a death--please know that your call is welcome. Or, if you just need a "rain location" for a family get-together, or want to borrow a few folding chairs for a special event, we're glad to oblige whenever we can . . . Drop by during our Summer Office Hours (Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or give us a call at (412) 661-1245 at any time.

Welcoming Committee

Bob Staresenic

Well, it is time to write another article for the newsletter, and it seems like I just did one. It has been a long time, but time has flown by. My name is Bob, and I am in charge of the Welcoming Committee for the community club. Since I am the only one on the committee, it is fairly easy to be in charge or, for that matter, to have a meeting. At the last Welcoming Committee meeting, it was decided that we need to expand the committee. I have said before that being on the committee is pretty easy. There are no meetings to attend, and the work does not need to be split equally among members. Since this is a very informal committee, anyone can be involved, for any length of time. Since the past year has flown by so quickly, I have gotten behind on welcoming new residents to Highland Park. I am not good at asking for help. But now I have to ask. I need some help in welcoming new neighbors. If you want to help, there are many things you can do:

- gathering things to put into the welcome bags.
- finding out when someone buys a house in Highland Park
- taking a welcome bag to a new neighbor.

To those of you who have never seen a welcome bag, I apologize.

That means that you have lived here in the neighborhood for a while, but have not seen me carrying them around. Or you have just moved here and I have been delinquent in welcoming you. Or you live next door to someone who just moved in, and since I have not welcomed them, you have not had the opportunity to see a bag. The welcome bag is a lovely, off-white bag with a green silk-screen of a turn of the century postcard of the entrance to the park. The design is appropriate to the bag, since the statues at the Highland Avenue entrance to the park are called Welcome. The bags are printed at Kress Shirts on Bryant Street.

Currently included in the bags are Mr Yuk stickers, a map of the neighborhood, an HPCC newsletter and membership application, voter registration forms, info from local businesses (such as Ace Lock, Dubblebbes Dog Grooming and Terry Villa), PAT bus schedules, and any other brochures, newsletters or trinkets I can gather. So if you work at, visit, volunteer, or are related to an organization that you think others should know about, get me some info from it. It could be a school, museum, grocery store, blood bank, religious organization, the City of Pittsburgh, newspaper, hospital, non-profit organization. I usually try to get 50-100 items, so I do not have to keep returning for more.

If you have ideas of items to include in the bags, have a new neighbor, or want an excuse to meet some new neighbors, let me know. There is no commitment involved (unless you take a bag--you have to deliver it), and it is fun. One of the reasons I don't want to ask for help is that I would not get to meet all of the new people moving into Highland Park if I had helpers. (If you think this article is long-winded, you should try to get me to stop talking).

You can call me at 412-441-8972 (but be careful, since I am slow at returning calls), email me at bob.63@netzero.net, or stop by my house at 931 Mellon Street. I would love to hear from you. And thanks for reading to the end of this article.

Bob Staresenic

School Discussion Group Forming

Liz Buchanan

A group of Highland Park parents are interested in hosting a lemonade and coffee hour at the Rhodedendron Pavillion/playground in Highland Park on Monday July 22 from 6:30-8:30 to talk about local schools. We want to engage the community to discuss issues in our schools and to find community-based and creative ways to address our children's school needs, particularly at the elementary school level. We envision this discussion as a follow-up to issues raised at the Highland Park Community Development Corporation March planning session. Please let us know if you and your family can join us or if you are unable to attend but would like to be kept apprized of future activities! Please RSVP by Friday July 19 to Liz Buchanan, (412) 363-0915.

What a Deal for Five Bucks? - See Page 5

Union Project News

Jessica King was unanimously elected the first Executive Director of the Union Project this past week. King previously held the position of Manager of Theater Operations at the Kelly-Strayhorn Community Performing Arts Center, a non-profit organization that operates the old Regent Theater in downtown East Liberty. Her experience in non-profit organizations also includes serving for four years as Program Coordinator and then Executive Director of Mennonite Urban Corps, a program that places recent college graduates into one-year volunteer work placements in community building, peacemaking, and arts groups within the Pittsburgh area.

As the organizational structure of the Union Project continues to develop, so too does its involvement in the Pittsburgh arts scene. A summer concert series scheduled for July and August is currently in the works, and the Union Project recently hosted successful events in collaboration with the Penn Ave Arts Initiative (Unblurred #6, May 17th), Dark Night Cabaret (May 6th) and New Horizons (May 7th). In addition, Bricolage Theatre recently ended the three-week run of their debut production, "Wild Signs." The multi-dimensional performance brought flattering reviews from the Post-Gazette, City Paper, and Pulp, as well as a feature spot on WQED's OnQ Magazine program. Hundreds of people saw the show, with standing-room only shows during its final weekend.

With the warm weather finally here, the Highland Park Community Development Corporation together with the Craig House stepped forward to help sponsor the Union Project Gardening Days, a series of Saturdays devoted to improving landscaping around the building. Many thanks to all involved for their help in the beautification of this prominent community landmark.

The Union Project is interested in utilizing a broad spectrum of volunteer support in creating a valuable neighborhood organization. These events, plans, and maintenance are all very important in moving the Union Project in the direction of building renovation. If your strengths lie in any of these areas, please contact the Union Project via phone or email, or fill out the partnership application on our website if you have other ideas about assisting the Union Project. The website is updated regularly and can be found at www.unionproject.org.

The News from Peabody

Anne Franks

The following letter by Mr. Richard Benfer was printed in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette May 29, 2002. Mr. Benfer participated in the Pittsburgh Council on Public Education "Principal for a Day" project. We are so delighted by Mr. Benfer's response to his experience at Peabody that we want to share this letter with you:

My experience proved that city schools have a lot to offer. On May 21 I had the opportunity to participate in the Principal for a Day program that was organized by the Pittsburgh Council on

Public Education in partnership with the Pittsburgh Public Schools ("Principals' Try a Day in Schools," May 22). I spent the day with J. Reed Vaira, the principal at Peabody High School. While I had some familiarity with the Pittsburgh Public Schools before my visit, my perceptions had been clouded recently by the battle of the school board. It seemed to me this battle was making us forget the educational process that was taking place in our schools every day. My experience as "Principal for a Day" at Peabody reinforced my belief in the wonderful work that is going on in our public schools. I saw students eager to learn and teachers committed to teaching. I saw a principal who had created an atmosphere where teaching and learning were paramount. I saw many examples of remarkable students. I observed a youth teaching 15 other students CPR. His command of his subject, his maturity and his teaching style were remarkable. I observed students discussing the Berlin Wall and its implications, English students reading "Great Expectations" and students studying biology. I observed a young lady make a presentation on her visit to 16 historic black universities and colleges. I saw staff discussing how they provided support to students who had gone through trauma in their lives. I met with the student council and listened to their ideas on how to continue to improve their school. I was visiting a school where teaching and learning were of paramount interest. There were no politics -- just committed students and faculty. It was very refreshing, and I wish the public could see this side of education instead of the ugly battles going on within the school board. I think it is time we set aside partisan politics and support Superintendent John Thompson and his leadership team and focus on education. They have a vision and are working hard to create an environment where more students can succeed. If the students I observed are any indication, we have the potential for a great future. It is up to us to make the commitment so the potential of these students is realized. If we make this commitment, Pittsburgh has a bright future.

RICHARD BENFER

Wilkinsburg

Editor's note: The writer is vice president, community initiatives, UPMC Health System. (Reprinted with Author's permission).

☹ **Don't Miss this opportunity, Page 5**

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HPCC June 20 Meeting Minutes

Shannon Mischler

Vice President Lisa Williams called the meeting to order at 7:35

Officer Brewer, who was filling in for Officer Scalise in Zone 5, attended and was open to any HPCC questions. He is based out of East Liberty, and usually patrols Stanton Heights.

Kevin Amos, Citiparks Program Coordinator of Reservoir of Jazz (ROJ) asked the HPCC if Citiparks could solicit contributions of varying degrees under the category of "Friends of Reservoir of Jazz". All in attendance agreed this would enhance the event. A WDUQ/Citiparks flyer was handed out at the Mellon Jazz Fest advertising ROJ. There will be food and drink vendors at the event, to include T'azza D'oro. ROJ's budget is \$5,000-6,000 with HPCC and Nationwide Insurance as the prime sponsors of \$1,000 each, with Stanton Negley Drug and T'azza D'oro also contributing. Please email Kevin if you are interested in making a contribution, Kevin.amos@city.pittsburgh.pa.us.

Michael Johnson and Ed D'Alessandro of the Highland Park Community Plan, presented a progress report to the HPCC. Michael discussed the community outreach which includes office hours at T'azza D'Oro, usually on Sunday early mornings, and Sandy's Deli, usually on Sunday mid afternoons. A mailing will occur no later than 6/26 about the community plan's goals, status, initiatives, and subsequent steps. They will be collecting data and seek maximum participation through quantitative data and focus groups, to begin in July or early August. The funding of the Community Plan is \$25,000 disbursed by Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development and an Anonymous Donor, and \$5,000 disbursed by McCune Foundation. The Farm House will become the central office as soon as the City grants permission to occupy the space and begin service on phone lines. And Karen Brean and Ed D'Alessandro are approved by the Planning Team for a second six-month contract: 7/1/02-12/31/02. Community plan information can be accessed at www.highlandparkcommunity.com or email questions to Karen Brean/Brean Associates at kmbrean@aol.com or phone 412-244-3445, and Ed D'Alessandro at highlandparkcommunity@yahoo.com.

Kate Zober reported on a Super Playground workday on September 14th from 8-5 PM, providing complimentary breakfast and lunch. She is comprising a committee to recruit volunteers for the workday. Volunteers will treat wood, spread mulch, etc. Please call Kate at 412-662-9312 to assist.

Mary Beth Steisslinger reported on the BioBlitz. The BioBlitz was able to catalog new and interesting insect and plant species. The Parks Conservancy reported that invasive plants are overrunning the heart of the park. They hope to have a one time clear out of the invasive plants, and then maintain the plants. And they are looking for people to maintain some sights. Contact the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy for more information.

The July HPCC newsletter will go out to all 3,000 Highland Park residents. There is no meeting in July and there is no newsletter in August. The August meeting will start with a potluck dinner at 6 P.M at St. Andrew's to welcome all prospective and current HPCC members. There will be "a build your own sundae bar" and music. Please bring your favorite dish to share. The HPCC meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. Have a safe, happy summer!

A Special Offer to New Members

Join the Highland Park Community Club as a new member for only \$5.00. This is a one-year membership. (Regular membership dues are \$23.00.) This only applies to those who have never before been a member of the HPCC.

Continuing Members: Please note: Do not use this form to renew your membership. If you are currently a member or a lapsed member, you will receive a separate renewal card in the

New Member Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Your check #: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$5.00

Mail this form with your check to:

Kelly Meade,

HPCC Membership Chair

1217 Heberton Street

Pittsburgh PA 15206

mail in August.



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Historic Designation for Highland Park *(The first of a series of three articles)*

Dave Hance

The Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC) has worked since its inception in 1993 to improve the residential, commercial, and aesthetic character of the Highland Park neighborhood. Its primary goal has been to increase the neighborhood's livability for its current residents and to make it more attractive to new residents. The HPCDC has utilized many means to this end: it has purchased deteriorating and blighted properties in the neighborhood; it has organized and financed their renovation and reuse; it has recruited businesses for Bryant Street; and it has encouraged the restoration of Highland Park itself. The HPCDC has decided to employ yet another tool to encourage investment in and improvement of the Highland Park neighborhood. It has prepared a nomination of the neighborhood and the park for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is a list of buildings and districts that are significant for historic and architectural reasons. Typically, the buildings and districts must be at least fifty years old to qualify. Since both the park and the neighborhood came into being in the late nineteenth century, we qualify. A dozen years ago, the staff of the Bureau for Historic Preservation, which is part of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, made a determination that both the neighborhood and the park were eligible to be listed in the National Register. The Highland Park Community Development Corporation decided to take advantage of this eligibility, and filed the required nomination forms to list the neighborhood last Spring. The official nomination form to list the park in the National Register will be completed this Summer.

Official listing in the National Register brings with it few restrictions and a number of advantages. This is not to be confused with local historic designation by the City of Pittsburgh, which carries with it mandatory regulation of the appearance of the exteriors of buildings in the historic district. Instead, the National Register listing is largely honorific. It will allow the neighborhood to promote its historic character as officially recognized by the State and Federal governments. It will impose no restrictions whatever on property owners who use private funds to work on their properties – including demolition and new construction. It will only regulate projects that use Federal or State funds as part of their financing, including renovation projects supported by the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Major Federal or State initiatives within the district, such as highway and bridge construction, would also come under special scrutiny to ensure that their design does not adversely affect the neighborhood or the park.

Besides helping the neighborhood to promote its historic streets and houses, and preventing egregiously insensitive construction projects with Federal or State funding, listing in the National Register will allow property owners to take advantage of current and future tax credits. At present, the Federal tax code allows

owners of certified historic income-producing properties to take an income tax credit of up to 20% of the costs of renovating a building. Owners must meet the tax rules, and in exchange the renovation work is reviewed for conformance with preservation standards. There are currently no renovation tax credits for homeowners, but both the Federal and State governments have been considering them for several years, and when they are finally passed they will be a boon to homeowners in National Register historic districts.

The Highland Park Community Development Corporation believes that getting Highland Park listed in the National Register of Historic Places will provide yet another tool to encourage investment in and improvement of the housing stock in the neighborhood. To help explain what it believes can only be seen as a "win-win" for the neighborhood, the HPCDC will sponsor neighborhood meetings and additional articles in the Highland Park Community Club newsletter this Fall.

The nomination to the National Register is sponsored by the Highland Park Community Development Corporation, David Hance, President, and coordinated by Jeffrey DeNinno. The nomination is being researched and written by Michael Eversmeyer. Questions about the nomination can be directed to Jeff at his email address: jdeninno@aol.com, home phone at (412) 661-7275, or to any board members of the HPCDC.

Coming: "What is historic about Highland Park?" and "The National Register: Questions and Answers"

Yard Sale

Judy Wolfe

It is hard to believe that Sunday, June 2, 2002, was the Highland Park Community Yard Sale number 19. We had more than 80 participating sales this year - that is getting close to a record. Thank you to all the volunteers: Angie Walker, Bob Staresinic, Peter Hughes, Janice Burgett, Kurt Wallnau, Alex Edwards, James Soffiatti, Tania Grubbs, Michael Croneberger and Carolyn Croneberger. Thank you to Enrico's Tazza d'Oro, Walnut Market and Stanton-Negley Drugs for allowing us to distribute maps from their businesses. *I hope that you all understand that it took some special arrangements, with the powers that be, to make sure that the weather was perfect this year.*

Volunteers distributed 150 fliers and HPCC pencils at the marathon (thank you Molly Soffiatti), 225 fliers on light poles 20 posters in businesses, and 800 lists on the day of the sale. We advertised in the Post Gazette, Tribune Review, Pennysaver (distributed in the Eastern and Northern suburbs), and weeklies in the Eastern suburbs. I hope that you all are satisfied with the results. I know that I went right out and spent the \$60 that I made at my yard sale - on other yard sale items. Now that is recycling that I can get behind.

Angie Walker worked very hard to make the Arts and Crafts Sale

at St. Andrew's a success. I got there late and looked at some of the
(Continues next page)

(Continued from previous page)

items for sale and was very impressed. The quality of the merchandise was very impressive and the prices were reasonable, Angie's arrangements for the set up were attractive and made shopping a pleasure. Even the vendors were satisfied (wow!). I hope that the sale will continue to grow. Thank you to the St. Andrew's Youth Group who helped to clean up and, of course, thank you to Bruce and Susie Robison for allowing us to have the sale on their lawn, for providing the tables and chairs, and for their continuing support for all the Club's activities - including this sale.

It seems that each year there are a few more folks that take advantage of our advertising and hard work, and decide to have sales on their own. I appreciate that sometimes people make decisions at the last moment to have their yard sales on that Sunday, or they never see the signs that encourage our neighbors to participate. Please let these folks know that signing on with the Highland Park Community Yard Sale shows that they appreciate the community spirit of our neighborhood, that they are proud of our Club and our neighborhood, and indicates (at least to me) that they are willing to work with their neighbors.

Also, as mentioned above, I always get a few people at the last minute that tell me that they never got any notice of the sale until it was too late. There are two ways to remedy this:

1. JOIN THE COMMUNITY CLUB
2. Send me a note soon. Include your name and address. I will keep a mailing list (which will include this year's participants) to send out notices a couple of months in advance of the sale next year. This goes for the Arts and Crafts Sale as well. Please include any comments and suggestions (no criticisms please - I have a very fragile ego) for improving the sale. My address is 5910 Wellesley Avenue. Please don't call - I need the paper notes to insure that I will get the addresses correctly.

Thank you again for making this year's yard sale a success. Judy Wolfe

A rousing cheer for Judy, who has masterminded this great event for many years!

Block Watch

Jan Stayianos

I am still looking for anyone who is willing to be a Block watch Captain for their block. It's an easy way to volunteer in your neighborhood and it's an important job that needs to be done. The few people who have stepped forward have collected the necessary information to organize a block and have installed crime watch signs. That's all it takes. Won't you consider helping out, too?

Summer is usually a time when more crimes occur. It's important for everyone, whether organized or not to be more aware of what's going on around you. Look out for each other, take precautions

when you go away - stop the mail and newspapers, use timers, have someone you feel comfortable with keep an eye on your house, have someone cut the grass, etc. If you see any suspicious behavior or witness an actual crime, call 911. If you have a block Captain, call them after you make your report to 911.

Let's all work at keeping our neighborhood safe this summer. Keep your eyes and ears open. Have a wonderful summer!

E-Fest to be held July 13 & 14

This year East End Cooperative Ministry will again treat Pittsburgh to E-Fest: The Arts and Music Festival for Emerging Artists. It will be held in the streets of East Liberty, centered at the corner of Penn and Highland Avenue. Last year the event was a huge success, drawing approximately 13,000 people.

Ten Youth Business Initiative high school students, who are supervised by HPCC member "Muzz" Meyers, organize E-Fest. Since November, these youth have been learning how to run a small business. Now school is over, they work full time getting the festival ready. This program helps them to learn good work habits, as well as learning business skills such as fund raising, decision making, organizational skills and teamwork.

Plan to come!! One woman who attended the festival last year said, "This was the best event in East Liberty in years."

<h3 style="text-align: center;">THE NUIN CENTER</h3>  <p style="text-align: center;">5655 BRYANT STREET IN HIGHLAND PARK PITTSBURGH, PA 15206 412.661.6108 WWW.NUINCENTER.COM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Coherent Light • Vanati™ Center & School • The Hero's Journey Programs • It's Our Turn to Play!!! • Pittsburgh Mind/Body Institute <p style="text-align: center;">DAY & EVENING YOGA CLASSES (CALL FOR SCHEDULE)</p>	
<p>Acupuncture Chinese Herbal Medicine Chiropractic Conflict Resolution EMDR EYE MOVEMENT DESENSITIZATION Energy Field & Chakra Balancing Gestalt Therapy Homeopathy Holistic Psychotherapy Hypnotherapy Mind-Body-Spirit Integration NLP NEUROLINGUISTIC PROGRAMMING Reflexology Reiki Storytelling for All Ages The Rolf Method Therapy Groups for Men & Women</p>	<p>MASSAGE: Sports, Neuromuscular Therapy, Deep Tissue, Swedish, Shiatsu, Pregnancy, Labor, Post- Partum & Infant Instruction</p> <p>HOLISTIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE & MEETING SPACE</p>

Adapted from EECM News, Summer 2002

Highland Park Community Plan Kicks into High Gear

Michael P. Johnson, Director, Highland Park Community Plan

Since the Town Meeting on March 28, 2002 at St. Andrews Church to introduce the community planning process to Highland Park residents and other interested persons, our community effort has continued to create activities that will enable residents to participate in discussions to shape our community's future. In this brief article I will introduce the persons and organizations behind the community plan, the community plan's goals and deliverables, and current projects of the community plan.

The persons managing community planning process are: myself, Ed D'Alessandro, Community Plan Coordinator and employee of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation, Karen Brean, external consultant with experience in community planning and principal of Brean Associates, and a Planning Team composed of fourteen residents of Highland Park and surrounding communities. The Community Club and the East End Neighborhood Forum are organizations that have partnered with HPCDC to provide support, resources and expertise. Our funders are many and include the Pittsburgh Foundation, the City of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development.

The community planning process started January 1, 2002, and is intended to wrap up June 30, 2003. By June 2003 we will have conducted at least two Town Meetings to learn more about our community and evaluate strategies to improve the community. In addition, we will have produced a written document, the "community plan", that will provide a comprehensive portrait of our community, visions for our future in graphics and prose, and specific strategies that can be put into action by community members ourselves, with the assistance of government bodies and other organizations.

In the next week, the Planning Team will send out a flyer to many households in Highland Park and portions of surrounding communities that will answer frequently asked questions about the

planning process, provide a map of the community plan's study area, and include quotes from Planning Team members that will make this process more concrete for those who want to learn more about it. In particular, the flyer will promote two upcoming initiatives: a community survey and focus groups.

The community survey is intended to enable the Planning Team to construct a portrait of our community: what we look like, where we have moved from, where we shop, where our children attend school, and the aspects of our community that appear to be strengths and those that appear to be weaknesses. The survey will also enable the Planning Team to better understand the community's willingness to engage in local planning, and the strength of social ties that can influence the success of the community planning process as an ongoing initiative. The survey will be available in on-line and paper forms by the second week of July.

Focus groups are intended to enable community residents to discuss, in detail, specific issues of concern to them, such as education, housing, arts and public safety. We hope that 15 - 25 community residents will participate in each focus group, and that the membership will be diverse. The Planning Team will start contacting potential participants soon, and we hope to conduct actual focus group sessions in July and early August. The outcomes of the focus groups will provide specific strategies for improving Highland Park, and in distinguishing between short-term and long-term policies. If you would like to participate in these focus groups, please contact Ed D'Alessandro at highlandparkcommunity@yahoo.com or Karen Brean at karen@breanassociates.com.

For more details about the community plan, please visit our website at www.highlandparkcommunity.com and browse the documents and discussion groups available there. On behalf of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation and its partners, and the Planning Team of the Highland Park community plan, we look forward to your participation in any aspect of the community planning process in the next few months!

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BioBlitz Highland Park:

What did we learn? What should we do now?

Abbie Pauley, Dir. Education, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Mary Beth Steisslinger, Restoration Projects Coordinator, PPC

We experienced the coldest wettest BioBlitz yet this past May 18; most affected were the insect and bird counts, reduced by 40% or more than what was expected, and still scientists were surprised by the Biodiversity that was present under these conditions. The BioBlitz yielded a count of 967 species identified. Over 500 people braved the raw weather to join the scientists and naturalists for a day of environmental restoration projects, nature exploration, and environmental education programs and performances. All the activities were designed to build awareness of the importance of biodiversity in an urban setting. In announcing the final tally of species found in Highland Park, John Rawlins, Associate Curator of Natural History at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, said, "The take-home message of the BioBlitz is that we have an astonishing diversity within our own backyard. We hope this event helps people to pay closer attention to the world around them." Rawlins described some of the fascinating finds including golden tortoise beetles that look as if they were dipped in gold; another of the startling purple centipedes that was found in the Schenley BioBlitz; a rubbery flatworm that curls up to one-half inch in size but can extend to seven inches in length and consumes earthworms weighing ten times its own weight. "You would never believe some of the amazing creatures that live right here in Highland Park," said Rawlins.

Other surprising finds included tiny snails measuring 1mm in diameter, never before reported in Allegheny County; Great Blue heron, Belted Kingfisher, Nighthawk, Rough-winged Swallows and Turkey Vultures; an exceptionally large Dryad's Saddle Mushroom that weighed 4 pounds; a few shrew species; a threatened species of tree in Pennsylvania, *Ptelea trifolia*, hop tree, and some plants listed on the state noxious weed list (this BioBlitz stood out for the sheer number of invasive plants covering large areas in the central section of the park and down along Negley Run).

The species identified during BioBlitz 2002 were:

Birds	49
Mammals	11
Herps (Reptiles/ Amphibians)	4
Fish	1
Mollusks	19
Arthropods (insects)	421
Vascular plants	361
Lichens, Moss, Fungi	49
Fossils	52

There are many wonderful plants and animals in our park. That much we know from the BioBlitz, but how can we protect the habitat of these plants and animals. Every living thing needs the same things we need to survive; food, water, and a home/space/habitat in which to acquire food and water. It would

be easy if we could just let the park be and assume that all the plants and animals there had what they needed... it's green after all. But the problem is that many of the so-called noxious weed species and invasive species that are growing in our park, multiflora rose, certain thistle species, and knotweed and garlic mustard, take over the habitat or growing space of many plants that provide food for many animals. These plants, rather than making our parks more biodiverse, are crowding out the native plants that were once abundant.

During the BioBlitz, two small sections of Highland Park, a meadow and a forest glade, were cleared of invasive species and planted and seeded with many native plants. Volunteers removed mountains of knotweed and garlic mustard, placed erosion control matting on the meadow slope, and mulched both sites to further prevent erosion and protect the young native plants. In the meadow, three varieties of dogwood shrub and false indigo bush were planted along with butterfly weed, yarrow, milkweed and other species known for attracting butterflies and birds, over 100 live plants in all (not including a seed mix with 20 more native meadow species!). In the forest glade, three varieties of solomons seal were planted along with trillium, wild ginger, dogwood shrubs, sassafras and viburnums, over 100 gallon-sized plants in all. Unfortunately, the recent storm that caused so much damage to the park and the city also took a toll on the forest glade site and about ¼ of the plants were severely damaged or lost altogether. The good news is that both these project areas now have volunteers who have adopted the sites and will provide on-going observation and maintenance.

Six Highland Park residents, four for the forest glade and two for the meadow, have committed to visit the sites three times each year and report back to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy about the status and needs of each site. These two sites, along with four sites in Riverview Park, are the first "natural" sites to be adopted by volunteers. Volunteers receive training and on-going support as they learn to observe their sites, inventory existing plant life, note any major changes or disturbances, plant additional native plants and most importantly, monitor and remove when appropriate, certain invasive species. On these sites, knotweed and garlic mustard are by far the worst offenders.

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(Continues next page)

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These Adopt-A-Park Volunteers working together will, along with the Parks Conservancy, learn through experience how best to keep invasive plant species at bay. We expect our volunteers to visit the sites about three times per year for actual work time, perhaps spending an hour or two each visit. For now, we are recommending they visit their sites in late April for an early plant inventory and a chance to pull the garlic mustard as it is making its first appearance. We then will ask that they visit their site again in late May or early June to inventory the spring bloom and to cut back and pull all remaining garlic mustard and all visible knotweed on their site (this practice will cause the knotweed to put immense energy into regrowth, so that the Dept. of Public Works can selectively spray the plants with Round-Up when it flowers in August, the best recommended time for herbicide application on knotweed). Lastly, we ask our volunteers to visit their sites in late September or October for a final plant inventory and to cut back any resprouted knotweed. We are assuming that a site will have to be given regular attention for three years in order to eradicate knotweed and garlic mustard, and of course to guard against any seeds being blown into the site and resprouting. Obviously, surrounding sites should be tended as well.

For now, we will learn as we go. Eventually, the Parks

Conservancy would like to see most natural areas in the parks being regularly monitored. Ideally, the restoration process will work out from already restored sites and areas of relative health, towards those areas that are mainly composed of invasive plants and noxious weeds. It may seem a daunting task, but with volunteers committing to their own small slice of the park (and with help from city workers from DPW, Citiparks and Partners in Parks), we can patiently rebuild a beautiful whole.

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List compiled by Bob Staresinic, who apologizes for any information that may be incomplete or inaccurate. Originally included with June 2002 issue

File this directory with your personal phone book for handy reference.



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The Next HPCC meeting is 7:30 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2002, at St. Andrew's (following 6:00 picnic)

JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR

<i>JULY 13 & 14</i>	<i>E-FEST, STREETS OF EAST LIBERTY</i>
<i>JULY 22</i>	<i>SCHOOL DISCUSSION, LEMONADE & COFFEE, RHODODENDRON GROVE, 6:300 - 8:00 P.M.</i>
<i>AUGUST 4</i>	<i>RESERVOIR OF JAZZ - SALSAMBA , NEAR ENTRANCE TO PARK, 5 P.M.</i>
<i>AUGUST 11</i>	<i>RESERVOIR OF JAZZ - SANDY STALEY , NEAR ENTRANCE TO PARK, 5 P.M.</i>
<i>AUGUST 15</i>	<i>PICNIC AND HPCC MEETING, ST. ANDREW'S, 6:00 P.M.</i>
<i>AUGUST 18</i>	<i>RESERVOIR OF JAZZ - RODNEY MCCOY , NEAR ENTRANCE TO PARK, 5 P.M.</i>
<i>AUGUST 25</i>	<i>RESERVOIR OF JAZZ - ROGER HUMPHRIES & RH FACTOR, MICHELLE BENSON & KENNY BLAKE, (BACK TO BACKCONCERTS) NEAR ENTRANCE TO PARK, 5 P.M.</i>

Hi Neighbor!

This is the annual mass mailing to all residences in Highland Park.

The purpose is to convey to newcomers or others who do not belong to the HPCC some sense of what is going on. With that understanding, we hope that perhaps you might choose to join. If you have not previously belonged to the club, follow instructions on Page 5. If you just neglected to renew

in years past, call Kelly Meade and ask for an application. Her number is on Page 2.