

HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club
Newsletter for
October 2002



Edited by Ollie Rieley

HIGHLAND PARK TOWN MEETING

Ed D'Alessandro

The Highland Park Community Plan invites Highland Park residents and neighboring communities to a town meeting. At this event Highland Park residents who are directing the community planning process will present findings about strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in Highland Park in five key areas: Arts, Recreation and Youth Development, Commercial District Development, Public Safety, Housing and Education. Coffee, cold drinks and deserts will be served.

The Town meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22nd from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton Street, Highland Park.

The community plan is being undertaken by the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC), in collaboration with the Highland Park Community Club (HPCC) and the East End Neighborhood Forum (EENF). The project is focused on bringing together the knowledge and experience of community members with the expertise of professionals to build Highland Park's future. The plan is an important step in maintaining and enhancing community strengths while providing a framework for inevitable development and other changes in and around the community.

For more information, to confirm your attendance at the meeting, or to arrange transportation to and from the meeting, please call Ed D'Alessandro, Plan Coordinator, at (412)-244-3445 or email to: highlandparkcommunity@yahoo.com

Halloween Festivities

The Second Annual
Highland Park Community Club



Scarecrow Festival

Saturday October 26
from 12:00-2:00pm
Farm House Playground

For two weeks prior to the festival (Starting Oct. 12th) we hope that everyone will participate by creating their very own 'scarecrow' and proudly display them in yards, apt windows, balconies...wherever.

The idea is to get as many 'scarecrows' as we can along the streets of Highland Park

PRIZES Will Be Awarded for the Best!!!

The 'Scarecrow' Party:

On Saturday October 26th, as a community we will gather for food, fun and festivities at the Farmhouse Playground. Come in costume, and bring something either pumpkin or apple related to share, awards will be given for the 'Best Fall Foods' and the 'Scarecrow Categories'.

To Enter! Fill Out Form Below:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Check A Category
Most Patriotic _____ Sports Fanatic _____ Famous Figure/Star _____
Funniest _____ Best Dressed _____ You Name It _____
Scariest _____
Children's Category (8 and Under) _____

Drop Off this Portion no later than OCT. 23rd at Enrico's Tazza Dora in 'Scarecrow' Box!
Or send to: HPCC, PO BOX 5036 Pgh, Pa 15206

Presidential Election at Oct. 17th Meeting!!!!

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2002, AT ST. ANDREWS

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Children: Tania Grubbs 661-4054
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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
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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

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HPCDC/HPCC Web: www.highlandparkpa.com
Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted

Historic Designation for Highland Park: Questions and Answers

Dave Hance

During the summer, we explained that the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC) has prepared a nomination of the Highland Park 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, compiled by the federal and state governments. Official listing in the National Register brings with it few restrictions and a number of advantages.

Q: If Highland Park becomes a historic district, doesn't that mean that homeowners will have to get permission to make changes to their houses?

A: No. The HPCDC wants to list the neighborhood as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places, which only restricts projects funded by government money. Historic designation by the City causes regulation of all exterior changes to houses in City historic districts.

Q: Won't listing in the National Register bring City historic designation with it?

A: Not unless our neighborhood organizations ask for it. There is no automatic connection between National Register and City historic designation. Some City neighborhoods have both historic designations, while others have just one or the other. The City Historic Review Commission and City Council do not initiate historic designations in residential neighborhoods; they only respond to requests from neighborhood organizations.

Q: What's this business about "government money"?

A: Because it's a Federal and State program, the National Register of Historic Places only has a direct effect on programs and projects that receive funding from the Federal and State governments. Privately-financed projects, such as house renovations or additions, are not affected by National Register listing. This seems backwards, since usually Federal and State government programs are larger and have greater effect than local government programs. But, in legal terms, historic designation is a lot like zoning, which relies on the city's police powers. Just as there is no Federal or State zoning, National Register listing can only affect Federal or State-funded programs. Property owners who use private funds (their own money or bank loans) can do anything they want to buildings listed in the National Register, including tearing them down.

There is a requirement for review of projects and programs that make use of Federal or State funds in a National Register-listed district. This means that preservation officials at the City and in Harrisburg would review all HUD-funded renovations in the

neighborhood. It also means that all renovations using Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) programs would be reviewed, as well.

Q: How did this nomination get started?

A: About ten years ago, State preservation officials, while reviewing an HUD-funded project on Stanton Avenue, decided (in accordance with Federal regulations) that the Highland Park neighborhood was eligible for listing in the National Register. The HPCDC decided that an official listing would provide another tool to encourage investment in and improvement of the neighborhood.

Q: What are the advantages of National Register historic designation?

A: First, listing in the National Register honors a neighborhood by recognizing its importance to the community at large. It strengthens the credibility of efforts by the HPCDC and individual citizens to preserve the neighborhood. Second, projects and programs that obtain Federal or State funds are reviewed to make sure that they don't have a deleterious effect on the neighborhood. Third, owners of income-producing properties are eligible to make use of Federal tax credits for renovating those properties. Fourth, owners will be able to take advantage of homeowner's tax credits that are making their way through Congress and the state legislature. Fifth, Federal and State historic preservation grants, when they are funded, are only available to owners of properties that are listed in the National Register.

To be listed in the National Register as a historic district, a neighborhood (or park) must have been associated with the lives of important persons in the past; or it must have been associated with specific or general events that were significant in history; or it must constitute a significant collection of architecturally-significant buildings that have kept their historic architectural integrity over the years. We believe that the Highland Park meets these criteria as was discussed in previous articles.

The Highland Park Community Development Corporation will sponsor neighborhood meetings and additional articles in the Highland Park Community Club newsletter about the nomination 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 <<mailto:jdeninno@aol.com>>, home phone at 412.661.7275, or to any board members of the HPCDC.

September 19 Meeting Highlights

Shannon Mischler

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Brandon Weber.

C.O.P. Officer Scalise spoke for a few minutes about community policing. Officer Scalise said robberies are on the decline in Highland Park. However, a gun was found on Mellon street, and there have been reports of prostitution during the day at Stanton and Negley Ave. The community club spoke with Officer Scalise about the Meadowstreet bridge and the cars littering the bridge and Meadow street. Officer Scalise reported that she has an ongoing dialogue with Mike's Auto Body on Meadow street regarding vehicles, speeding tow trucks, and building inspections.

Community Plan: Michael Johnson, Director of the Highland Park Community Plan briefed the Community Club on the progress of the Community Plan. They are still collecting data from surveys, which should be completed by the end of October. To enter the data from the surveys into a computer database, the Community Plan requested a grant for \$250 from the Highland Park Community Club to pay data entry clerk(s). This was referred to the Finance Committee. In mid October there will be Focus Groups underway, to be held on the second floor of the Farm House. Michael encouraged all residents to complete a survey form which may be found at a Enrico's T'azza D'oro, Sandy's Deli, or online at www.highlandparkcommunity.com. Any questions can be referred to Michael Johnson at 412-268-4270 or mkljohn2@hotmail.com

City News: Councilman Jim Ferlo spoke about the progress underway around Highland Park. There will be a town meeting this fall regarding the development of Heth's Run Ravine (which forms the border between Highland Park and Morningside) into recreational fields for the entire East End. Also, a four to five million dollar community center is coming to the corner of E. Liberty Blvd. and Frankstown Road. And a \$10,000 restoration of the fountain at the HP entrance is beginning. The first phase will be this fall with completion next spring; in later phases there will additional gardens.

Elections: Lisa Williams, the current Vice President of the Club, was nominated for the Presidency, to be voted upon at the October meeting. Amy Defoe, Peter Hughes, Ollie Rieley, Bruce Robison, and David Delong were elected to three year terms on the Board of Directors.

Children: Tania Grubbs discussed the Annual Halloween Scarecrow Event to be hosted at the Farm House Playground possibly on October 26th from 11-1 PM. HPCC agreed to donate \$500 to this annual event, pending approval by the Finance Committee.

Super Playground: Bob Staesnic spoke in lieu of Kate Zober regarding Maintenance Day at the Super Playground. Bob reported that the day was a success, and many thanks to many great volunteers. Kate has ordered a handicapped accessible swing, and a handle for the sliding trolley. There will be a "Mulch

Madness" Maintenance Day in the spring to lay out the wood chips.

Web Site: Rudy Maceyko spoke about the HPCC web site: www.highlandparkpa.com. Rudy is assembling a digital photo essay about Highland Park and would appreciate any old photographs from long time residents.

Development: Mitch Kates spoke about the happenings in East Liberty, i.e., Whole Foods opening October 17th, Kelly's Bar expanding with a rear patio, the Kelly-Strayhorn Theatre (kid's art and creative movement classes on Saturday AM), and the Shadow

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Highland Park Community Plan's Second Town Meeting: Tuesday, October 22, 2002

Michael P. Johnson, Director, Highland Park Community Plan

The Highland Park Community Plan will have its second town meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2002 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at St. Andrews Church. At this event, Highland Park residents who are directing the community planning process (the "Planning Team") will present findings about strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in Highland Park in five key areas: Arts, Recreation and Youth Development, Commercial District Development, Public Safety, Housing and Education. This information will be derived from previous meetings of "focus groups" devoted to these topics and a community-wide survey of attitudes. We hope that community members attending the town meeting can comment on our findings, suggest other topics to explore, and join the focus discussions on an on-going basis.

The town meeting will devote the first half-hour to registration, refreshments and informal discussions. During the formal portion of the meeting to follow, members of the Planning Team will present findings from focus group meetings and the community survey. Afterwards, the Planning Team will lead the audience in a facilitated discussion in order to distill and prioritize problems that have been identified, and to think in general terms about solution strategies. Children are welcome to attend the town meeting.

Results from the town meeting will help the Planning Team identify specific, actionable local strategies to address concerns in the five key areas. These strategies, combined with extensive survey results, follow-up meetings of the focus groups, quantitative data related to the five key areas and an architecture-based "urban visioning" process will form the basis for a final report (the "Community Plan") that the Planning Team will make available in June 2003. The most important outcome of the community planning process, however, is the increased capacity of local residents to engage each other and existing organizations to solve problems.

This community planning process is intended to identify problems in Highland Park and surrounding areas (portions of East Liberty, Larimer and Morningside) and to identify viable solutions for these problems. These proposed solutions will form the basis for initiatives by local organizations, city government and other entities. For example, identification of a specific problem, such as lack of organized activities for local teen-agers, might lead to a specific solution strategy, perhaps a space in Highland Park devoted to teen recreation. In turn, this solution could serve as the basis for a request, after the completion of eighteen-month community planning process, for the city or a local non-profit organization to build such a space and provide appropriate programming.

The Highland Park Community Plan is an initiative of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation, in partnership with the Highland Park Community Club and the East

End Neighborhood Forum. The Community Plan needs the support and active participation of residents of Highland Park and surrounding communities. We welcome your active participation in the planning process. You can learn more by visiting a website of the community plan at www.highlandparkcommunity.com, or sending email to the Planning Team at highlandparkcommunity@yahoo.com, or by calling 412-244-3445.

The following the focus groups will be established:

- Arts, Recreation and Youth Development Contacts: Jessica King (jess@unionproject.org) , Cristina Lagnese (cristina.lagnese@verizon.net), Shelly Danko-Day (shelly@pittsburghchamber.com)
- Housing Contacts: Jacqueline Jonas (jjonas_99@yahoo.com), Juanita Everett (creativekinetics@hotmail.com)
- Education Contacts: Juanita Everett (creativekinetics@hotmail.com), Patrick Dowd (dowdp@theellisschool.org)

Initial meetings are planned for the week of October 14. For information on dates, times and places and to register to participate call Karen Breen Associates at 412 244 3445.

October at St. Andrew's

Bruce Robison

The musical highlight of the month at St. Andrew's will ring out the weekend of October 26th and 27th, as St. Andrew's welcomes one of the very finest traditional English Men and Boys choirs with the Choir of Hereford Cathedral.

The Choir will be in concert on Saturday evening, the 26th, and tickets (advance purchase strongly recommended) are available through the St. Andrew's Church Office. On Sunday morning, October 27, the Choir will sing a traditional English Prayer Book service of Choral Mattins at 11 a.m. The Sunday morning service is of course open to the public and without any admission--though it's recommended that we arrive early to find a good seat . . .

Another great musical event will take place the preceding Sunday afternoon, October 20th, at 2 p.m., as the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh gathers at St. Andrew's for a traditional Welsh Choir Hymn Sing. The general public is welcome, and a festive reception will follow.

Adult and Educational programs at St. Andrew's are always a very important part of our life, and as we look back on September's great St. Andrew's Lecture event, featuring former Mayor Sophie Masloff, we will be moving ahead with a fall series of programs under the general title, "Living Globally as People of Faith." Our first speaker in this series will be Schuyler (Sky) Foerster, President of the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, an organization that works to build international understanding, with a special emphasis on programs for Pittsburgh-area secondary schools. The program, at 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 6, will be preceded by an informal potluck dinner at 6 p.m. Friends and neighbors are invited both to the program and the dinner.

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St. Andrew's "moved" to Highland Park 96 years ago, and from the corner of Hampton Street and North Highland Avenue we are dedicated to serving and caring for the needs of our neighborhood. If there is a pastoral concern we can help with---a baptism to arrange, a marriage to celebrate, a friend or neighbor who could use a hospital or home visit, or perhaps with the special needs that come forward at the time of the death of a loved one--please feel invited to give us a call. Our Sunday services are at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with programs for children and youth during the later hour, and our Church Office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m - 12 noon and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. The Church phone is (412) 661-1245.

St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services - October

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

11:00 a.m. Choral Morning Worship

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The Next HPCC meeting is 7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 17, 2002, at St. Andrew's

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OCTOBER CALENDAR	
WEEK OF OCT 14	COMMUNITY PLAN FOCUS GROUPS, VARIOUS PLACES, DATES AND TIMES, CALL 412 244-3445 FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER TO ATTEND
OCT 17	HPCC MEETING, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, ST. ANDREW'S, 7:30 P.M.
OCT 20	TRADITIONAL WELSH CHOIR HYMN SING, ST. ANDREW'S, 2:00 P.M.
OCT 22	COMMUNITY PLAN TOWN MEETING, ST. ANDREW'S, 7:00 P.M.
OCT 26	SCARECROW PARTY, FARMHOUSE PLAYGROUND, 12 NOON - 2:00 P.M.
OCT 26	CHOIR OF HEREFORD CATHEDRAL, ST. ANDREW'S, 7:00 P.M., ADMISSION

Special Election for President during Meeting October 17th

Lisa Williams is nominated for president.

Other nominations may be made from the floor.

Come out and vote — Make your voice heard.