

HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club
Newsletter for
March 2003



Edited by Ollie Rey

February 20 Meeting Highlights

Shannon Mischler

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Williams.

Lisa welcomed new officers Bob Staresinic, as Vice President, and Stacy Gray, as the Children's Committee Chair. The Hospitality Chair, Kate Zober, has resigned that position, but will continue as the Super Playground Chair.

Lisa received information about the Zoo's Earth Day Extravaganza on Saturday April 26. They were soliciting HPCC for support of the Extravaganza.

Tania Grubbs informed the meeting that HPCC has received a \$5,000 grant from Jim Ferlo's Office--as previously noted in the treasurer's statement. Tania suggested use of the money toward a kick-off celebration of the HP Fountain, after its completion in early summer. She would also like to have some money distributed to the Children's Committee, and some money will be allotted towards the "Reservoir of Jazz" in July/August.

Tania also announced that Dilworth Elementary School on Stanton Avenue would like to hold the April HPCC meeting at their school. They are transforming their curriculum into one of full art integration, and the Principal would like to present the new curriculum to Highland Park. Since St. Andrews is unavailable for the Thursday meeting and Pittsburgh Public Schools are closed on Thursday, the HPCC will change the night of the meeting to Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30 PM at Dilworth Elementary School.

Dell Ziegler introduced Joanne Pope, a US Postal Inspector, who spoke about mail fraud specifically directed at senior citizens. Ms. Pope showed a 15 minute video and spoke on identity and consumer fraud schemes, how to take care of unwanted solicitors, and what the US Postal Service is doing to combat mail fraud.

The Block Watch Committee Chair, Jan Stayianos, spoke about

recent crimes in Highland Park. There were 14 drug related arrests on Jackson Ave. and Mellon Street in the past month. A boy was shot on Portland Ave. He has been released from the hospital. On Wellesley Ave. there was a car jacking, but the criminals were caught and the car was returned.

There was a report by Highland Park residents on tow trucks illegally parked on King Rd., Beverly Place, and Negley Ave. There is a city ordinance that disallows tow trucks to be parked on residential streets between the hours of 7 PM and 7 AM, but several local tow truck companies in this area are not obeying the ordinance. The HPCC would like to support these residents of HP in a written letter to law enforcement.

Michael Johnson presented further information about the Community Development Plan in a written outline. Michael also supplied the HPCC with a "Report on the Highland Park Survey Results v.2." There will be a third town meeting in early May 2003. In late June the Community Plan process will come to a conclusion. If you have further questions, you can email Michael at mkljohn2@hotmail.com.

Important Dates

**Dave Hance and Mike Eversmeyer
Historic District For Highland Park
at the next meeting
Thursday, March 20, 7:30 PM
St. Andrews Church**

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2003 AT ST. ANDREWS CHURCH

Hey Kids — Speak out

Susanna Bjorkman

The Community Planning Team is seeking volunteers for one of the focus groups we'll be having in March. Young people ages 12-18 are invited to participate in a discussion about recreation and other opportunities for youth in Highland Park. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20th at 4 PM at Vento's Pizza near Home Depot. Participants will get free pizza and other goodies. Bring a friend - See you there. Please call Susanna at 412 244-3445 to indicate you'll attend so we'll know how many to plan for.

ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL FISH FRY

1154 Chislett Street

St. Raphael School will be having their second annual Fish Fry beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5th & every Friday in Lent during the month of March thru April 18th. Times for dinner and/or takeout are from 5:00 -7:00P.M. The delicious fish dinners are \$6.50 and include either baked or fried fish with 2 side orders and a roll. The choices for side orders are macaroni & cheese, cole slaw, fries or three pierogies. Also offered are a Children's Fish Dinner for \$4.00, a Pierogie Dinner and/or a Macaroni & Cheese Dinner for \$3.50. All diners include 2 sides & a roll. A Cod Fish Sandwich is \$3.50.

Treat yourself and relax on these Fridays and support our wonderful neighborhood school.

Next Meeting Program

**Dave Hance and Mike Eversmeyer
Historic District For Highland Park**

**Thursday, March 20, 7:30 PM
St. Andrews Church**



Dog Grooming



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HPCDC/HPCC Web: www.highlandparkpa.com

Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted

Union Project Update

Justin Rothshank

Are you a graphic designer and willing to volunteer for a specific project? We need your immediate help to design innovative PR pieces -- specifically a cohesive brochure, exterior signage, and a tabletop display. We've got strong design standards and welcome you to help us strengthen our public image even further. We'll provide concept, text, photos and any other logistical help to make this a quick and creative job! If you can contribute to the project in this way, call Jessica at 412-363-4550 or email Jess@unionproject.org.

We're looking for your trash to make our treasure! During your spring cleaning, please set aside those items that are most worthy of being sold on the Union Project's behalf at the June 1 Highland Park community-wide Yard Sale. We need donations of sellable items and volunteers to help staff tables -- call Melissa at 412-362-1233 or email Melissa@unionproject.org by May 1st.

We are planning two Clean Up days at the Union Project - May 10 and May 17 from 10 am to 4 pm. Activities include a spring cleaning of the Union Project interior, mulching of a large brush group, planting flowers, and generally beautifying the Stanton and Negley corner. If you would be interested in volunteering in the May Clean Up days call Melissa at 412-362-1233 or email

Melissa@unionproject.org.

The Union Project will again be hosting a summer artists and farmers market -- expanded to 16 weeks and building on the success of last year's 4-week market. The 2003 market will be held once a week on the corner of Stanton and Negley avenues and we are happy to have Mildred's Daughters Urban Farm (from Stanton Heights) as part of the market this year. If you are interested in an affordable weekly booth at this high-traffic corner, contact Justin at 412-478-3105 or email Justin@unionproject.org. The market will start in mid-June -- we'll keep you posted on the details!

This week, a small and dedicated group from Canada's Western Ontario University has helped with building work and preparation for our 2003 Event Season. We are also happy to be hosting a group from the Organ Historical Society for several Saturdays in March. This group will be helping us by removing and preserving the pipe organ as we seek a better home for it.

Come watch the Pittsburgh Marathon at the Union Project. The Union Project will again be hosting a prayer table sponsored by Pittsburgh Mennonite Church and Bethany Baptist Church as a way to support the runners.

Be sure to check out the Union Project website, www.unionproject.org for updated photos, links and event listings.

Marriage Workshop

Surveys indicate that having a happy marriage is an important goal of 94% of young adults, yet the divorce rate is still in the dismal range of 50%. The Couples Center of Shadyside, owned by Highland Park resident and couples counselor Susan Moore, LSW, will offer a workshop this month on what it takes to build and maintain a strong marriage. **Happily Ever After (Most of the Time): Creating a Successful Marriage** will offer skills and concepts based on the latest research and will be offered in a fun and relaxed setting. It is designed for any couple committed to having a happy and lasting marriage, from engaged couples seeking to build a strong foundation to established couples wishing to take their marriage to a new level.

The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 15th, 9:30 – 12:30 and will be held at The Couples Center, located at 5501 Walnut Street, Suite 204. Reservations are required and the fee is \$35 per couple. Call 412-687-9432 or visit www.couplesconsultant.com for reservations or more information.

April Meeting at Dilworth School
Wednesday, April 16, 2003
7:30 PM

Note Change in Day and Place
Around St. Andrew's

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Phone for information

412 661-0288

Bruce Robison

Mardi Gras is Tuesday, March 4, and all our friends in the Highland Park neighborhood are invited to join us that evening, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., for our traditional "Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Mardi Gras Festival." Good food, games, music, and fun for the whole family.

Lent begins then on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and services of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes are scheduled at 7:15 a.m., 12 noon, and 8 p.m. (with choir)--and, again, of course, all are welcome.

The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer indicates that on this day we are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." With wishes then for the keeping of a good Lent, for us all.

Musical events at St. Andrew's over month include a concert of the Pittsburgh Camerata on Saturday, March 1, at 8 p.m. and a service of Choral Evensong on Thursday evening, March 6, at 8 p.m., with recital by our good friend Dr. Charles H. Heaton--Highland Park resident and retired Organist and Director of Music at the East

Liberty Presbyterian Church--who will be presenting a program including the "Pastorale in E" by Cesar Franck, and the "Introduction, Passacaglia, and Fugue," by Healy Willan.

Services at St. Andrew's are Sunday mornings, 9 a.m. (Holy Communion, in the Chapel) and 11 a.m. (Choral Service), and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. (Holy Communion, followed by Bible Study).

St. Andrew's has been a part of this Highland Park neighborhood for nearly a century, and we are glad to be "good neighbors." If there is a pastoral need we can help with (a baby to be baptized, a couple to be married, someone who is ill or shut-in, and needs a visit, or a family needing care at the time of a death), we encourage you to give us a call--whether you think of yourself as a "member" or not. Or--maybe you just need a "rain location" for a family garden party? We may be able to help with that too! St. Andrew's Office Hours are 9 a.m. - 12 noon, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesday-Friday. Our phone number is (412) 661-1245.

Highland Park Community Plan Update

Michael P. Johnson

The Highland Park Community Plan is a community-based process intended to enable residents of Highland Park and portions of surrounding communities to design innovative strategies to improve our neighborhoods. This planning process, a collaboration between the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC), the Highland Park Community Club (HPCC) and the East End Neighborhood Forum (EENF), is in the last leg of an eighteen-month process that began in January 2002. Since the last article about the Community Plan appeared in the HPCC newsletter, there have been a number of noteworthy events: completion of the Community Plan survey, community outreach efforts, and design of the Community Plan final deliverable.

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Since August 2002, the Highland Park Community Plan has made available a survey on community attitudes. This survey, which has

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St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services - March

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.hows.net/15206saec

been available in paper form at local merchants, and in electronic form on the HPCP website, has been very successful; we have received over 500 responses. These responses have enabled the Community Plan to identify needs and concerns in a number of areas: education, public safety, housing, arts/recreation and commercial district. Preliminary survey results are available at the Community Plan website, www.highlandparkcommunity.com (click on "Highland Park Online Library" then "Survey Results"). Generally, the survey indicated that residents have very specific preferences for community services and for quality of life that are not currently being met, and that they are favorably inclined to working with their neighbors to improve the community.

The Highland Park Community Plan has also worked hard to engage the community through outreach efforts. Since early January 2003, a free, publicly-accessible computer with Internet access has been provided by the Community Plan at Enrico's Tazza D'Oro. This computer has been used to take the Community Plan survey, visit Web sites of public officials and government agencies, and other tasks. The Community Plan has continued sponsoring focus groups of local residents to discuss issues related to the planning process: two meetings regarding Bryant St. commercial development have been held since December 2002, and a third one, open to the entire community, will be held in early March 2003. In addition, a focus group on youth concerns will also be held in March 2003. Please contact Susanna Bjorkman at Brean Associates (susanna@breanassociates.com, 412-244-3445) if you would like to participate in these meetings. The Community Plan held a holiday party for participants and supporters on December 18, 2002; it was well-attended and featured lively discussions on the community planning process.

The outcome of the community planning process is twofold: a final document (the "Community Plan") containing data, goals, and strategies that provide specific guidance for initiatives that can improve Highland Park, and increased capacity to perform community-based planning and development. The final document will contain information derived from publicly-available data, the Community Plan survey and focus groups. An outline of this document is available in the latest Community Plan update document, available on our website (www.highlandparkcommunity.com; click on "Highland Park Online Library" then on "Community Plan Status Reports"). We plan to have a preliminary draft of the final report available for public comment by early May 2003; we also plan to have the third and final Town Meeting at which community residents can provide feedback and suggestions regarding the final report.

It is important to emphasize that the Highland Park Community Plan will only identify those goals, and recommend those strategies that come from the community itself. Therefore, if you have ideas or concerns about the community planning process, or the health of Highland Park and surrounding communities, we want to hear from

you! Please visit our website (www.highlandparkcommunity.com), send email (highlandparkcommunity@yahoo.com) or call (412-665-3646).

St. Raphael Expands Enrichment Program

St. Raphael School of Morningside is announcing the addition of a before school drop-off program to complement their modeled after school Enrichment Program that has received much recognition.

The morning program will allow parents to drop their children off at 7:00 AM and is designed to give working families the peace of mind that their children are starting the school day in a safe environment one hour before school begins. This schedule is a complement to the after school program that allows parents the freedom of leaving work without rushing to school to pick up their student. That plan runs until 6:00 PM.

The school administration is quick to remind the school's parents that the after school service is not a glorified child care arrangement but an educational process that enriches the student's academic life by providing not only arts, crafts and recreational activity but also programs in math, science and logical thinking games, as well as homework assistance and tutoring opportunities.

St. Raphael has a rich 88 year tradition of educating children in the Morningside and Highland Park areas. It welcomes children of all races, religions and cultures. Located just a mile from the zoo, it offers a safe inner city environment in the eastside locale of Morningside. St. Raphael's small classes allow academic achievement that is bolstered by computer literacy and a Spanish language curriculum.

More information can be obtained by phoning 412-661-0288.

Representative Preston Joins Affirmative Action Brief to U.S. Supreme Court

State Rep. Joseph Preston Jr., D-Allegheny, has added his name to a brief filed on behalf of several Pennsylvania lawmakers and other officials with the U.S. Supreme Court defending affirmative action admissions policies at the University of Michigan law school and other law schools across the nation.

The University of Michigan admissions policy, which is designed to maintain racial and ethnic diversity at the university's law school, is being challenged as unconstitutional. Preston said he joined other state lawmakers and officials in filing the amicus curiae, or friend-of-the-court, brief because a ruling by the Supreme Court

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against the university's admissions policy could have a devastating effect on diversity at other universities across the country, including here in Pennsylvania.

"This is just the latest in a long line of milestone civil rights cases that the Supreme Court has heard over the past half century," Preston said. "The difference now is that we have a Supreme Court that seems poised to turn back the hands of time instead of moving them forward, and a president who seems ready to do the same."

Preston said the brief will argue that the kind of affirmative action admissions policy used by the University of Michigan and other schools is permitted under a 1978 ruling by the Supreme Court (*Regents of University of California v. Bakke*), which found policies that use racial quotas illegal but affirmed the right of universities and other institutions to use other methods to actively seek diversity.

"The University of Michigan's program is very modest, and does not use quotas," Preston said. "Our fear is that dismantling it will lead to a slow but steady deterioration of minority enrollment not just in specific degree areas, but in higher education overall."

"Minorities, both racial and ethnic, still face significant economic, social and institutional barriers to higher education in this country," he said. "Universities and other higher education institutions, especially public universities created for the very purpose of increasing access to higher education for all residents, should be able to strive for diversity as a matter of admissions policy and a matter of public policy."

Preston said the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the case (*Grutter v. Bollinger, et. al.*) in April. Besides Preston, over 30 other former and current state lawmakers and other individuals are parties to the amicus curiae brief, which was filed by Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus Chairman Mark Cohen, D-Phila.

Complain about Tow Trucks

Twice in recent meetings, residents have complained about the number of Tow Trucks parked overnight in the community. Apparently calling the police is usually ineffective. Perhaps collecting a number of complaints and submitting them together in the name of the club would call forth more vigorous action.

Any one seeing overnight parking or suspicious or illegal activity by tow trucks is requested to send a short note describing the offence, the date, time and place it occurred and including the trucks identification to the HPCC - Tow Trucks, P. O. Box 5036, Pittsburgh PA 15206. When a meaningful number of complaints has been accumulated we will forward the to authorities.

Editor's Thoughts

I apologize for this issue being late. I have been indisposed but am mending now. I'm sorry for any inconvenience for example, to Pittsburgh Camerata who are performing tonight at St. Andrew's without the reminder this newsletter should have provided.

It was a great party last Saturday. Thanks to Elaine Herald and John Jordan for opening their beautiful home to us. Thanks to Dell Ziegler and the committee for all the arrangements and thanks to the great cooks of Highland Park for all the delicious food. I enjoyed talking to all of you. I'm looking forward to the next one already.

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March Calendar	
march 1	Pittsburgh Camarata Concert at St. Andrews
march 4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Mardi Gras Party at St. Andrews
march 5	Fish fry at St. Raphael School (and following Fridays thru April 18)
March 15	Marriage Workshop
March 20	Regular monthly meeting of HPCC 7:30