# HIGHLAND Community Club Newsletter for June 2004



Edited by Ollie Rieley

#### The Prez

Bob Staresenic

Is the rain over yet? The past 2 weeks have been filled with rain and thunder. I love the results (that everything is green, not the part about the moisture in my basement). I hope it does not continue like that over the few weeks between my writing and the newsletter arriving in your hands.

The funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development has been approved. The HPCC (with the assistance of Rep. Joseph Preston Jr's office) applied for a \$10,000.00 grant for community activities, and the full amount has been approved. With the short notice I had to put together the information, and the details required for how it was to be spent, I was unable to project the entire amount needed to put on the Reservoir of Jazz. The budget for this money was divided up as about \$4000 for the Reservoir of Jazz, about \$4000 for the mass mailing of the July newsletter, about \$1200 for Welcoming Bags and materials, \$500 for the Day Camp, and \$350 for refreshments at HPCC meetings. The money has to be spent first, and then reimbursed by the State.

I hope to see you on Sundays at the Reservoir of Jazz. Keep your eyes out for more details about the artists and the times of the concerts.

The Yard Sale should be a success again this year, as Judy Wolfe has been hard at work getting it all organized. I am not selling anything this year (it is hard being a pack rat), but plan to be out looking to see what you are selling. I hope it is another year with great weather.

Recently I went to donate blood at Central Blood Bank, and they were going to reject me due to high blood pressure (no problem with the minimum weight requirement). That has never happened before ( and I am on my 9th gallon), so I decided that it is time for a healthier diet. So watch for me at the Farmer's Markets at the Zoo parking lot and the Union Project. I hope to see you all looking for fresh, locally-grown produce throughout the Summer right here in Highland Park.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything going on in Highland Park, please feel free to contact me.

Bob Staresinic 412-441-8972, bob.63@netzero.net

# It's Finally Here! ANNUAL YARD SALE

Sunday, June 6, 2004, 9:00 A.M. to?

Remember the old Pittsburgh saying: "My White Elephant is your Treasure." So get out and visit your neighbors' yards and get that Treasure you've always wanted. Maps and lists of items at Stanton Ave & N. Highland Ave. and at Hampton St & N. Negley Ave.

# Be a Household Word in the Neighborhood

Write an Article for the July Mass Mailing Issue and It Will be Seen in 3000 Homes

Officers, Directors, Anybody with something to say about our community, send me an article for the July issue and I'll do my best to include it in the annual mass mailing. Remember, the deadline is June 17<sup>th</sup>, the third Thursday of June. Having said that, I'll warn you the issue may be a little late because of the difficulty of putting it together and the fact that I might have conflicting obligations. Send articles via email to ollie5808@aol.com.

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You Must Read: Youth Group - Pg. 4 Day Camp - Pg. 7 Contractor's List - Pg. 8 PAGE 2 HPCC Newsletter

#### **Car Breakins**

The Highland Park Neighborhood email system has be full of "Security Alerts" the last week. I received these four and pass them on so we can all take appropriate measures.

- Last night someone walked up our driveway on N. Highland near the park and went thru the glove compartment of our SUV. We found the door open and papers strewn inside the SUV. The only thing that was taken was an eyeglass holder full of change for tolls and parking meters. Silly us, we never locked the SUV which has a security system as we thought this could never happen in our neighborhood. If you all know the homes in our area, you would realize that the person would have to walk quite a ways to get up our driveway and for sure must have triggered the motion detector spotlights in our driveway during the escapade. The Aarons
- Exact same thing happened to us on Farragut St in the winter time. We did call the police and make a report after the fact just to make sure it was documented. The Williams
- There was action on Browning Road on Saturday night..our car was not locked and the CD player was taken. A couple of other cars on the street were broken into as well...if we report all of these incidents the police coverage will increase in the area. If we keep lights on, cars locked, and our eyes open....hopefully this will pass soon.
- A couple of months ago I came out to my car to find a black man (young-20s, thin) standing by my SUV looking into it. It was parked in the lot by my apartment on Bryant Street. He was on the passenger's side of the car so I couldn't get a good look at whether or not he was trying to get into my car. I used my remote entry to unlock my car, hoping the sound would scare him away and it did. After he passed me he took off down the block. I was pretty scared for a bit and then I checked my car where He was. The plastic piece inside of the backseat door handle had been pried out. I believe he was trying to break into my car, but my (very fortunate) timing had prevented him. I didn't report it at the time because I couldn't be sure that it was him that had jimmied my handle, but hearing everyone's stories I wonder if it was the same person. If I can be of any help, please let me know. Shea Christilaw



### H. P. C. C. Officers, Directors & Committees

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Lisa Solomon 661-0126 (05)

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Ollie Rieley 661-1205 (05)

Bruce Robison 361-4892 (05)

Brian Byers 661-2614 (06)

John Ciroli 665-0513 (06)

Marie Jackson 441-2450 (06)

Amy Maceyko 441-9130 (06)

Andrea Mudd 631-4574 (06)

 $C_{ommittees}$ 

Beautification:----

Block Watch: Jan Stayianos 363-8208

Children: Rachel Matos

Commercial District: Muzz Meyers 661-2315

Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195

Education: Kevin Bivins

Hospitality: ----

House Tour: Dana Thomas 720-0907, Angie Walker 362-2899

Membership: Kelly Meade 362-0331

Newsletter: Ollie Rieley 661-1205

Program: Bruce Robison 361-4892

Public Safety: John Ciroli 665-0513

Recreation: Charlie Peterson 441-2766

Reservoir Covers: Dave Hance 361-4935

D. J. J. D. H. 201 1005

Restoration: Dave Hance 361-4935

Super Playground: Kate Zober 661-9312

Vard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830

Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972 Zoning: Dell Ziegler 363-0742

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

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#### **HPCC Meeting Minutes for 5/20/04**

Andrea Mudd

Board President Bob Staresinic called the meeting to order at 7:40, and announced Pennsylvania Dept of Economic and Community Development approval of a \$10,000 grant to HPCC. This money will be used to underwrite the 2004 Reservoir of Jazz and the Club's mass mailing, with modest expenditures to also support purchase of Welcome Bags for new residents and summer camp. Kelly Meade is researching the feasibility of HPCC applying for CTAC grants to support other projects as well.

Reservoir of Jazz is planned for 4 Sundays in August this year. Bob reported that Tania Grubbs has started making plan for the ROJ. The DCED funding will pay for musicians, a portion of the sound system and publicity, and small tents for the concerts. Tania will continue to be in touch with Citiparks about the possibility of renting stage equipment.

Children's Committee Report: Rachel Matos has volunteered to be chair of the Children's Committee. She is planning some additional events, rather than have just 2 per year. If you would like to help, or if you'd like to offer additional ideas for the Committee, please let Bob know. He will pass your info to Rachel (Bob has not discussed with Rachel the best way to contact her yet).

Public Safety Committee Report: Jan Stayianos presented March and April Crime Statistics for Highland Park and surrounding areas. There were no crimes-against-persons in the neighborhood. She again encouraged all neighbors to use Silent Complaint Forms when illegal activity of any kind is observed.

We are also urged to use Project Safe Neighborhoods' (www.projectsafeneighborhoods.com) common-sense advice: Be diligent. Install outdoor lighting. Lock your car--and house doors. Report suspicious behavior!

Community Plan: Michael Johnson spoke about starting a Youth Group, one of the initiatives in the Community Plan which has garnered high interest. About a dozen young people attended the kick-off meeting of the Youth Group. Michael envisions this group of middle –to –high school aged youth meeting every 4 to 6 weeks through the summer. They will plan several activities which may include some entertainment events and some service activities.

The Youth Group needs an adult advisor who will help plan and organize the activities, and who will act as primary contact person for the group. The group really needs someone needs to step up to the plate on this so please contact Michael thru the HP website or Jessica King at the Union Project if you are interested in helping with this project.

Other business:

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The webmaster needs a hand to develop a website for the

Youth Group –please call Rudy to volunteer The Highland Park Swim Team is being sponsored by Divehards International SCUBA training facilities. The kids will be swimming and sporting T-shirts provided by Divehards and Education Innovations.

3. Speaking of Education Innovations, they're reporting a successful launch of Idea Group at Tazza d'Oro and looking forward to their gardens and beautification projects on Bryant.

Mary Beth Steisslinger had plenty to say about knotweed other increasingly active invaders as well as Norway maples. Controlling these noxious plants requires vigilance and Round-Up. If your garden has any problem weeds or Norway maples you should cut them to a height of one foot in June and spray with Round-Up. Don't allow knotweed to go to seed in August. She invited one and all to a free Invasive Plants workshop from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. on June 5 at Fern Hollow in Frick Park.

#### **Block Watch**

Jan Stavianos

Summer is upon us and that usually means that crime is on the rise. The rate of crimes in Highland Park has been slowly going up. Our problems seem to be burglaries and thefts from residences and vehicles. At the recent Public Safety meeting, Commander Brackney said that Highland Park is the worst neighborhood in Zone 5 for leaving doors of homes and vehicles open. She feels that if people were more careful our statistics would be lower.

You may have seen publicity recently about a program being introduced across the United States called Project Safe Neighborhoods which is meant to reduce gun violence. Their moto is "Gun Crime Hits Home." Our neighborhood is not really affected by the problem of gun crime as much as others, but they say where there are drugs, there are usually guns. With that in mind, I want to encourage anyone who knows of drug problems to use the Silent Complaint forms available at Zone 5 or through me to indicate problem areas so that police can investigate. The police understand that people are afraid of retribution and the silent complaint form is a good way to avoid that problem.

Don't forget: Block Watch is all about looking out for each other. Call 911 about anything that you feel is suspicious and tell your neighbors about what you have witnessed

Don't hesitate to call me at 412 363-8208 about any questions you might have.

#### St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street \* Highland Park

#### **Sunday Morning Services - June**

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel 11:00 a.m. Choral Morning Worship Church School at 9:45 a.m. Nursery School at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

> Visit our Homepage: www.forministry.com/15206saec

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# A Youth Activities Group for Highland Park?

Michael Johnson and Jessica King

The recently-completed Highland Park Community Plan identified a number of local initiatives that reflected priorities of Community Plan participants and have the potential to improve the quality of life in and around Highland Park. One of these initiatives is a potential "Highland Park Youth Group" and this article is an effort to get residents--youth and adults--interested in this activity.

Our idea is that there is potential for a year-round youth-focused activity that will provide middle-school- and high-school-age students in and around Highland Park with a place to meet to socialize and a slate of activities that combine recreation and social service. This "Highland Park Youth Group" will enable young people--and adults--from different backgrounds and school experiences to have fun, to learn about each other, and to initiate and manage wholesome activities. It may serve as an alternative to less socially-productive activities, which is especially important during the hot summer months.

We envision the structure of the Youth Group as follows: it will meet once a month during the summer (starting June 2004), at the Highland Park Farm House; we'd envision this group meeting at the Union Project down the road - post renovation. Membership will be free and open to youth 12 - 17 in and around Highland Park, it will be managed by an adult "advisor" who will be in charge of membership, publicity, finances and selection of activities; and other adult (or youth) "activity directors" will manage logistics related to specific social and service activities. One primary emphasis of this group will be to ensure diversity of youth membership, especially with regards to race/ethnicity, socio-economic status and school location (inside and outside drawing areas of nearby Pittsburgh Public Schools).

Here are some ideas we have for Youth Group activities: softball game/picnic; evening bowling; mix tape/recording night; public service at the Union Project and other neighborhood organizations, and a "teen-sized" "home makeover" for elderly or low-income homeowners. Ongoing Youth Group services might include a dedicated e-mail list, a threaded discussion board sponsored by the Highland Park web page, www.highlandparkpa.com, a list of local service projects that can serve to connect local youth volunteers and activities, a youth-oriented page in the monthly Highland Park Community Club newsletter, and more.

One of us (Michael) is sensitive to the criticism that youth groups may be "high-overhead" activities whose beneficiaries are those who would have done well in any case. Another of us (Jessica), however, has compelling personal experience with youth and young-adult volunteers that have made a complex and expansive endeavor, the Union Project, a well-publicized success to date. Both of us believe that this Youth Group can serve to increase community engagement, community efficacy and diversity within

daily experiences. These outcomes, in turn, will make Highland Park a more desirable place to live.

If you are an adult who would be interested in serving as an advisor, or as an activity director for the Youth Group, or if you know young people who would be interested in participating in the Youth Group, or if you are a young person and would like to learn more about the proposed youth group, we'd love to hear from you!

You can contact us at:

mkljohn2@hotmail.com / 412-363-7017 (Michael Johnson) jess@unionproject.org /412-363-4550 (Jessica King)

We look forward to continued discussion regarding this activityÆs goals, activities, venue and other characteristics, and kicking off the Youth Group very soon.

#### **SUMMER WORSHIP**

June 13 through Sept 5, 2004

#### SUNDAYS

8 am Good Samaritan Service. A service of music, prayer and personal witness. Communion offered every first Sunday.

10 am Summer Worship Service. Worship combining the liturgies of our Contemporary and Sanctuary services. Includes thought-provoking sermons and a variety of music. Held outdoors in our Courtyard. Communion offered every first Sunday.

#### MONDAYS

**10 am – 3 pm Labyrinth Prayer Walk.** An ancient tool for silent prayer and individual walking meditation.

#### WEDNESDAYS

10 am - 9 pm

**Labyrinth Prayer Walk.** An ancient tool for silent prayer and individual walking meditation.

7 pm

**Taizé Prayer.** A candlelight service with chanted prayer and silent meditation.



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en Garden

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#### Around St. Andrew's

Bruce Robison

After the Memorial Day holiday things start feeling more like summer around St. Andrew's.

The last "First Thursday" Evensong before the summer break is Thursday, June 3, at 8 p.m., with an organ recital following by Peter Luley, our Organist and Choirmaster.

The traditional St. Andrew's "summer book" selection this year is *The Meaning of Jesus*, co-authored by Marcus Borg and N.T. Wright--two well known and highly respected New Testament scholars who bring significantly different perspectives to the questions raised by contemporary Biblical scholarship and interpretation. Our group discussions of the summer book will be Tuesday evening, June 29, and Wednesday evening, August 11. Call the Church Office for time and location.

For those who prefer to read widely over the summer, a great selection of gently-used books are now on sale at bargain prices in the St. Andrew's Parish Hall. Check out the selection Sunday mornings, weekdays during office hours, and at the HPCC June meeting.

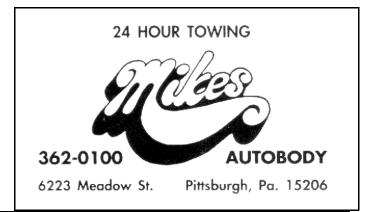
Looking ahead: St. Andrew's Service Schedule continues in June, with Sunday services at 9 a.m. in the Chapel and 11 a.m., with choir, in the Church. During July and August, though, we follow a summer schedule, with Sunday services at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Nursery Care continues at the later service all summer long.

St. Andrew's has been a part of this neighborhood for nearly a

century now, and to be of service to all who live and work here is an essential part of our congregational life. In case of any pastoral need--a child to be baptized, a wedding to celebrate, an ill or shut-in family member or neighbor to visit, a family to support at the time of the death of a loved one--please feel invited to call upon us. (Or perhaps you just need a "rain location" for a family picnic, or to borrow a table or some folding chairs: give us a call and we'll do our best to help.)

St. Andrew's Church Office is open Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in June. The phone number is (412) 661-1245, and our Church E-mail Address is <st\_andrewspgh@juno.com>. We'll be glad to hear from you.

\*\*\*\*



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#### **Day Camp this Summer**

Janice Burgett

The Highland Park Community Club has been providing a summer program for children for over fifty years. If you are unfamiliar with H.P.C.C. Day Camp you are really missing a neighborhood treasure. Our program runs for six weeks each summer from 9:00 am to 12:00. This year we are in session from June 21 to July 30, 2004. Parents are free to chose which weeks they are interested in and can sign up for one or all six weeks. The program is based at the Highland Park Farmhouse and we have use of the wonderful new playground behind the building. If you haven't tried this program before please consider creating this wonderful memory for your child, we still have space available.

The campers range in age from four through eight years of age. They spend their mornings in small, age appropriate, groups working on activities/ projects or engaged in gross motor activity. We take advantage of the park surroundings and hike to different pavilions for a change of pace and equipment. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we spend an hour swimming in the small Highland Park pool. We are swimming by permit so we are usually the only group in the pool at that time and the city does staff it with a lifeguard. The pool is only three feet deep at its deepest point so if your child does not know how to swim it's not a problem. Day camp costs \$90.00 a week for HPCC members and \$100.00/wk for non-members. A membership to the club is only \$25.00 and entitles you to the monthly newsletter for the whole year as well as the discounted day camp rate. If you are interested in camp or have any questions please contact Janice Burgett at 361-2195 o r check u s o u t www.highlandparkpa.com.

City Budget impacts Day Camp too Day camp is feeling the budget crunch too; the city has doubled the price of the swimming pool permit. Please help us run a safe, fun and effective program by signing up early for camp. We can plan, purchase and staff appropriately when we have enough notice to plan effectively. Register for camp before June 1, 2004 and save yourself the \$25.00 a week late fee for each child/each week.

\*\*\*\*

# Highland Park Day Camp Registration Form

(Campers from 4 through 8 years old)

1.)				birthda	
te		(camper's last n	ame)	(campe	r's first name)
2.)te				birthda	
				birthda	
Parent's Na	ıme				
Address					
	ne)		(wo	rk)	
	Please re	egister my child	(ren) for the fo	ollowing weeks:	
6/21	6/28	7/5	7/12	7/19	7/26

#### Enclose:

\$90.00 per week for each camper (member) or, \$100.00 per week for each camper (non-member). Membership is \$25.00.

You must include one week's payment for each child registered with the registration form.

(late fee for applications made after June, 1, 2004, add \$25.00/week/child).

Make checks payable to the **H.P.C.C.** and send with a <u>self addressed stamped envelope</u> to:

Janice Burgett 1017 King Ave. Pgh PA 15206

<u>MEDICAL</u>: In case my child needs medical care, I hereby give permission for my child to be transported to any appropriate hospital or medical facility, and I grant permission for any qualified medical personnel, including EMS, to render necessary emergency medical care until I can be contacted.

**<u>SWIMMING</u>**: I hereby give my permission for my child to attend all swimming activities.

<u>LIABILITY RELEASE</u>: In consideration of the HPCC's allowing my child to participate in Day Camp, I hereby release the HPCC and its directors, officers and staff from any and all liability for injury to my

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misconduct.	
(Parent signature and date) Please list any allergies, injuries or recent illnesses:	
Please list the names and phone numbers of three people who can be reached in case of an emergency:  1.)	
2.)	
3.)	
Family Physician:	
#	

# **Union Project to Celebrate Window Restoration and Installation**

Jessica King

The Union Project is hosting a stained glass reinstallation celebration on Saturday June 12, 2004 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Food and refreshments, kid's activities, tours, and stained glass demonstrations will be provided. There will be a short program at 3:00 p.m. State Senator Jim Ferlo and Representative Joseph Preston will be honored for their support of the Union Project. The Union Project is renovating the century-old former Union Baptist Church located at the intersection of East Liberty and Highland Park and is devoted to turning the historic building into gathering and working space for artists, community builders and people of faith.

Faced with the daunting but immediately necessary problem of restoring the building's over 100 stained and leaded glass windows the Union Project proposed a million dollar solution - offer stained glass restoration classes and use the former church's windows as class material. Now, less than a year later, the Union Project

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#### HIGHLAND PARK PREPARATORY ACADEMY

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invites the community to help celebrate the project and the hard work of all of the glass class members with the completion and reinstallation of the first 30 windows. Some 70 people have participated in the seven classes to date with many more volunteers assisting in cleaning windows, preparing window openings for reinstallation, and painting window trim. Four more classes are scheduled for the summer and fall.

"This is such an innovative win-win-win solution to the problem of the windows at the Union Project! I learn how to restore my own stained glass - and help a worthy community project at the same time," says Reverend Teresa Stricklen, Assistant Professor of Homiletics at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, "How cool is that?"

Students in The Union Project stained glass restoration class are taught all aspects of restoration. Each pair, or trio of students depending on the size of the window, restores a stained glass window that has been removed from the 15,000 square foot stone church building. Students are taught how to dismantle each window, clean each piece of glass, cut replacement glass for broken pieces, re-lead, solder and cement each window, attach reinforcement bars, and prepare each window for reinstallation. The June 12 event will celebrate the reinstallation of the fully restored windows complete with a custom-made protective glass storm window.

The restoration work may be dirty and tedious, but doubly rewarding. Says Stricklen, "My buddy and I have spent three hours laboriously cleaning just one window. When I told my daughter what I was doing, she said, 'Let me get this straight: you're paying them to clean their windows?' But when I come home and my children see how excited I am about being involved in my community, they learn a valuable lesson about what it means to live the good life. Add another win to this win-win situation."

For more information about the Union Project and the glass restoration project visit www.unionproject.org.

#### Last Call

#### **Contractors List Update**

The last Contractors list was issued in 2001. It is time for a new list! Mary Lee Snuffer has agreed to prepare one but all you folks out there need to give her input. For those who didn't see the last list - the Contractors List shows the name, specialty and phone number of contractors recommended by your neighbors. The person recommending the contractor is also listed with phone number so you can personally check with the recommender. And to give a sense of currency, the year the work was done is shown. Altogether it's a handy list to keep for when you need a plumber, roofer or what ever.

So please send recommendations to Mary Lee Snuffer at 837 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Or call her at 412 734-8477. Remember, the recommendation must include the

contractor name, specialty, phone number, year of service, the recommenders name and phone number. The list will be included in a future Newsletter.

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Realtor Page





P.O. Box 5036 Pittsburgh, PA 15206

#### **Return Service Requested**

TIME VALUE

JUNE CALENDAR				
JUNE 5	INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP, FERN HOLLOW, FRICK PARK, 9:00 A.M 1:00 P.M.			
JUNE 6	ANNUAL YARD SALE, AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD, 9:00 A.M?			
JUNE 12	STAINED GLASS RE-INSTALLATION CELEBRATION < UNION PROJECT, 2:00 P.M 4:00 P.M.			
JUNE 17	HPCC MEETING, ST. ANDREW'S, 7:30 P.M.			
JUNE 21	DAY CAMP STARTS — FEES			
JULY 10, 11	LOOK FORWARD TO E-FEST, PENN AVE. & HIGHLAND AVE			