

Community Club Newsletter for



Edited by Lisa Williams, editor@highlandparkpa.com

The President's Column

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

Hello Neighbors,

This is the annual issue of the Highland Park Community Club's newsletter that is delivered to every address in Highland Park. We decided to send it out now (instead of the middle of the Summer) to help with getting the word out about what is happening in the neighborhood. I hope you enjoy reading it and are able to get some good information from it.

At the recent HPCC meetings, there have been programs presented by the Highland Park Community Development Corporation about current and upcoming developments in the neighborhood. These focused mainly on the business and residential projects that the CDC has been working on. If you have not gone down Bryant Street between N St Clair and N Euclid, or have not been around the intersection of Mellon and Jackson streets, then you really should stop and take a look. The changes that are taking place, and will continue for the next year or two, will have a great effect on the entire neighborhood.

Take a walk past the Union Project (the former Union Baptist Church) at Stanton and Negley. If you are not familiar with what they are doing there, be sure to stop in and see. The windows are being repaired and the building is coming back to its former glory. There is a lot of creativity going on in association with the Union Project, and plenty of opportunity to join in the fun.

The HPCC will be having the Yard Sale (the first Sunday in June), Day Camp, Reservoir of Jazz (Sundays in August), a Community Festival, and the return of the House Tour in 2005. Look for information in this newsletter, and watch for further announcements for these and other events. It promises to be an exciting year in Highland Park.

I would like to thank Representative Joseph Preston Jr and Senator Jim Ferlo (and their staffs) for assisting the HPCC with applying for grants from the PA Dept of Community and Economic Development. These grants are allowing us to continue the Reservoir of Jazz, the Community Festival, and the printing and distribution of this issue of the newsletter.

As I write this, my flowers are blooming, we have just had a few weeks of great weather, and I am looking forward to a beautiful summer. I hope you are taking advantage of the great weather to get out and walk, bike or run around the neighborhood and the Park. Make sure to say hello to folks as you pass them, and continue to make this a friendly and enjoyable place to live.

If you have any questions about the HPCC, please let me know.

See you out in the neighborhood.

Bob

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 PM, THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005, AT ST. ANDREWS

The House Tour Is On!

Brigette Nadler

"Welcome Back to Highland Park" is this year's theme for the Highland Park House Tour. This is such a good year for our neighborhood. We have the opening of the Park's Entry Garden & Fountain, the PPC's Hat Luncheon, the Junior League's Designer Show House, the Union Project starting construction, the CDC's continuing efforts in revitalization with current work happening on the 800 block of Mellon Street and even the Zoo has plans to renovate the Polar Bear Exhibit. We are proud to add the House Tour to the list!

The date of the event is Saturday, October 1, 2005 from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Be sure to mark your calendars! Co-Chairs Amy Maceyko, Brigette Nadler and Peter Hughes have already met several times to start organizing. The priorities on our to-do list are to place homes on the tour and to gather volunteers. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! If you are interested in having your house on the tour, or if you have a neighbor you would like to nominate, the Committee is looking for homes of all sizes. We would like the tour to represent a range of homes, from renovations in progress to the charming and the grand.

A meeting for the House Tour Committee will take place Wednesday, May 11th at St. Andrews Church from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. If you are interested please show up that night. We will discuss the various tasks that need to be completed and begin to determine who is interested in working the day of the event. A surprise announcement will be made the night of the meeting!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer and cannot attend the meeting, the Committee can be contacted at housetour@highlandparkpa.com or call Brigette Nadler at 363-6869 or Peter Hughes at 363-4603. We hope to see you there!

Designers' Show House 2005

Presented by the Junior League of Pittsburgh, Inc.

820 North Highland Avenue

April 22 – May 15

Tickets: \$15 Advance; \$20 Door

Information: www.jlpgh.org or 412-571-3020

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

Officers

President: Bob Staresinic (441-8972)
Vice President: Dell Ziegler (363-0742)
Comm. Dev. V.P.: ---
Treasurer: Kelly Vitti (361-7669)
Secretary:-----
Past President: Lisa Williams (665-3933)

Directors

David Delong 303-0747 (05)
Lisa Solomon 661-0126 (05)
Peter Hughes 363-4603 (05)
Ollie Rieley 661-1205 (05)
Bruce Robison 361-4892 (05)
Brian Byers 661-2614 (06)
John Cirola 665-0513 (06)
Marie Jackson 441-2450 (06)
Amy Maceyko 441-9130 (06)
Andrea Mudd 361-4574 (06)
Mike Nadler 363-6869 (07)
Kate Carrigan 441-0722 (07)
Bob Arnold 362-8746(07)
Jennifer Thoma 661-9935 (07)

Committees

Beautification: ---
Block Watch: Jan Stayianos 363-8208
Children: Rachel Matos 361-3802
Commercial District: ---
Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195
Education: ---
Hospitality: ---
House Tour: Amy Maceyko 441-9130; Brigette Nadler 363-6869; Peter Hughes 363-4603
Membership: Kelly Meade 362-0331
Newsletter: Lisa Williams 665-3933
Program: ---
Public Safety: ---
Recreation: ---
Reservoir Covers: ---
Restoration: David Hance 361-4935
Super Playground: Kate Zober 661-9312
Yard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830
Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972
Zoning: Dell Ziegler 363-0742

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

HPCC Meeting Highlights

April 21, 2005

Ollie Rieley

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Staresinic at 7:32 P.M.

Election of Vice President: Bob announced that Dell Ziegler had agreed to serve as Vice President. Bob said the by-laws state that an officer vacancy may be filled by a vote of the Board of Directors. A quorum was present and Dell was unanimously elected Vice President.

Grant: Bob announced that the grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$10,000 had been received. Bob made a request for a grant last year to support the Reservoir of Jazz, the newsletter mass mailing and other activities. Congratulations to Bob for the good work and thanks to the Department of Community and Economic Development and to Representative Preston, who supported award of the grant.

Newsletter: Bob announced the May issue will be the mass mailing for this year. It has been moved up from July so the publicity for the Day Camp and the Yard Sale will be included and perhaps attract people to those events who would not otherwise participate. Input is due to Editor Lisa Williams tonight.

Public Safety: Committee Chair John Cirola has resigned. Anyone interested in taking over this committee should contact Bob.

Highland Park Working Group: Chair Rudy Maceyko reported that the recent meeting of the group was devoted to prioritizing their efforts. The overall goal is to tie areas of the park together through a network of trails. In addition, he reported that plans are going forward to remove the pin oaks from the bank of the reservoir and to replace them with something less threatening to the reservoir.

Email List/Website: Rudy Maceyko stated there are currently 469 addressees on the email list. He said that a new website is being developed which will permit direct contributions from the community. As always, he asked for volunteer helpers. Rudy also said that the next history group meeting will discuss the park entrance. Place and time for the meeting will be announced.

Block Watch: Jan Stayianos reported recent crime statistics. Rachael Matos said that a man had been seen in the vicinity of Wellesley and N. St. Clair going through mail boxes, apparently to steal anything of value. He seems to be with an 80's purple/gray/tan conversion van. If you should see him, call the postal inspectors or police.

Children's Committee: The committee plans to have a presence at the Reservoir of Jazz and at the Community Celebration on Bryant Street.

House Tour: Amy Maceyko announced the tour will be **Saturday, October 1** from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. There will be a meeting **Wednesday May 11** at 7:00 P.M. at St. Andrews to continue planning for the event. Additional volunteers are needed. See article on Page 2. The

HPCCDC and the Union Project are both cooperating in the house tour.

Zoning: Dell Ziegler announced that in face of community opposition the owner of the property at N. Highland and Wellesley who had been seeking zoning variance to add more buildings and apartments, has withdrawn his request. The property is now for sale.

Yard Sale: Kelly Vitti announced that the yard sale will be held Sunday June 5. An application form is included in this Newsletter and should be returned to Kelly by June 1. She needs volunteers to hand out maps on the day of the event and to post handbills around the neighborhood in advance. Call her to volunteer.

Community Festival: Plans are being made for the Community Festival. Input as to time/location/activities is desired as well as volunteers to prepare and run the event. Call Brenda Cole at 412-661-3646 to offer input or to volunteer.

Membership: Kelly Meade said that she has changed computers and may have lost some addresses. If you missed your last newsletter call her and let her know so she can reinstate your address.

Reminder: The Junior League Designer House opening night is April 22.

Program:

In the third of a three part series, members of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCCDC) and the East Liberty Development Corporation (ELDI) presented a review of their efforts to upgrade housing in the southwest quadrant of the neighborhood.

Dave Hance, president of the CDC, started the presentation with an overview of the conditions in the quadrant and the reasons why private money can not be expected to reverse the deterioration in the area. Dave described the CDC's marquee property, 5635 Stanton Ave. They took an abandoned mansion and carriage house that had been subdivided into about 15 units and refurbished it so that it now has eight units in the mansion and three in the carriage house. The project was completed in 1997 at a cost of about \$1.4 million.

The CDC is now focusing on the 800 block of Mellon St. They own four houses and one apartment building with expectations to start refurbishment of the properties this year. In addition, they own a large building at the corner of Avondale and N. Negley. Design is underway to convert this building to three condos.

Ernie Hogan from ELDI told us how the efforts of the CDC and the ELDI are linked together to complement and support each other. ELDI is in the process of serious redevelopment in the 700 block of Mellon. Ernie noted that the current efforts to tear down 1960s vintage low income housing in East Liberty and Garfield is causing many low income people to seek different housing and a logical location is in our neighborhood. The efforts of CDC and ELDI are focused on stopping the downward spiral of quality housing in the area that might result from the increased demand for low cost housing.

In the final segment of the presentation, Michael Johnson discussed the Mellon St. public safety initiative, which goes hand in hand with the brick and mortar building

improvements. The objective is to help resident increase social cohesion and community viability through anti-crime initiatives and social services. Michael, Juanita Everett and Dell Ziegler are involved in trying to engage residents, merchants, civic organizations and public agencies in anti-crime initiatives, working with Zone 5, to monitor other measures of community health and to connect residents with available critical social services and resources. The group has an ambitious list of tasks to accomplish to meet these needs and will be seeking funding to support these efforts from government and private sources. Michael concluded with an invitation to everyone to volunteer for this vital work.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

St. Andrew's Church
5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services – May
9 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel
11 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

celebratory lunch immediately following the service.

Although St. Andrew's was formally incorporated in the spring of 1837, the cornerstone of our "new" church in the Highland Park neighborhood, at the corner of North Euclid Avenue and Hampton Street, was set in place in August of 1905. For the past century the stories of the parish and the neighborhood have been deeply intertwined.

During most of the year services at St. Andrew's are held Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with programs for children, youth, and adults during the hour between the two services. During the months of July and August the service times move to 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Midweek services of Holy Communion, followed by an informal Bible Study, are held each Wednesday morning at 10:30, September-June, and on the First Thursday of each month, September-June, St. Andrew's Choir will sing the traditional service of Choral Evensong, followed by a brief musical recital. Throughout the year the congregation offers many opportunities for education, service, and social gathering for all ages.

As always, if there is a pastoral need we can be helpful with--a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in neighbor to visit, a family to support at the time of a death--or if you'd simply like to borrow a few folding chairs or find a "rain location" for that family reunion picnic you've scheduled, please do give us a call. St. Andrew's Office is open Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., and our phone number is (412) 661-1245.

Around St. Andrew's

Bruce Robison

This spring our final two First Thursday services of Evensong and Musical Recital before the summer break will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursdays the 5th of May and 2nd of June. In May our special guests will be the Choir of Calvary Episcopal Church, East Liberty, under the direction of Dr. Alan Lewis, and the combined choirs of St. Andrew's and Calvary Church will sing a Program to observe the Feast of the Ascension. Our recitalist in June will be St. Andrew's Choral Scholar Matt Derby. A festive reception will follow, and all are invited.

A fun family film, "The Five Thousand Fingers of Dr. T.," with story by Dr. Seuss, will be the featured event at our final Second Saturday Evening of the Month. "Cinema St. Andrew," beginning at 7 p.m. on May 14th. Friends and neighbors of ALL ages are welcome, and we're invited to bring a snack to share at the refreshment table.

Trinity Sunday, May 22nd, will be Youth Sunday and Church School Recognition Day at the 11 a.m. service as we celebrate with the children, young people, and families of our congregation and community. Pizza and other appropriate refreshments will be served in a

24 HOUR TOWING



362-0100 **AUTOBODY**

6223 Meadow St. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206

School Board News

Patrick Dowd

The Pittsburgh Board of Education has officially launched its nationwide search for the next superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. To lead the search, the Board has hired Dr. Helen Faison and Dr. Richard Wallace. Both of these individuals are nationally recognized educators and former superintendents in Pittsburgh. They are two truly excellent people and are knowledgeable on

education, on the Pittsburgh Public Schools and on the Pittsburgh community. We hope to hire the next superintendent by September of 2005, but are willing to extend the search if necessary. I encourage the citizens of Pittsburgh to offer their views on the next superintendent. One opportunity for providing input will be offered by A+ Schools. At 5 p.m. on April 28th in the Regional Enterprise Tower, citizens are invited to participate in a forum on the next superintendent. Contact A+ Schools at 412.258.2660 for more information. You can also share your views with me directly. The Pittsburgh Board of Education also holds monthly public hearings at which you can share your comments and concerns.

In the last newsletter, I discussed the importance of a value-added assessment system for measuring the academic success of each and every child. This system will provide critical information in support of our efforts to improve student achievement and reduce racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps. It will also assist the Board and administration in long-term cost reductions. In late March, the Board met with representatives from the RAND Corporation to discuss the creation of a value-added assessment system and we hope to launch the partnership this month. This is possibly one the most important and exciting recent developments in our efforts to improve student achievement. This will be a nationally recognized system and will move the Board and administration closer than ever before to true data-driven decision making.

Over the last twelve months, the Pittsburgh Board of Education closed under-utilized schools and reduced expenditures by nearly \$17 million. The Board has held taxes to 2003 levels and is committed to cutting costs before raising taxes. For that reason, we will begin again the process of closing schools. The Board and administration will hope to work with the public to craft a plan that can be presented in the fall of 2005. Schools voted to close will not do so until August of 2006.

The State Legislature's Act 72 continues to be an important topic of discussion, especially as the deadline for "opting-in" approaches. Board members continue to be out in public listening to constituents. At a recent meeting hosted by State Senators Ferlo and Costa, I heard well the call from dozens of citizens eager for property tax relief, and I share their concerns. However, there are many unanswered questions regarding Act 72. I am particularly concerned about the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and our district's ability to meet those mandates under Act 72. Because of the many unanswered questions, I support Senator Ferlo's legislation to extend the date for "opting-in" to Act 72. Given that revenues from slot machines will not start flowing to districts until at least 2008, a few extra months now would enable the legislature to strengthen the law and garner greater support from school districts.

In the days and weeks ahead, the Pittsburgh Board of Education will face important decisions on superintendence, Act 72, teacher contract negotiations, and school closings. As always, I eagerly welcome your comments and concerns. You can reach me at patrick@patrickdowd.org or by mail at 341 South Bellefield

Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or by phone at 412.622.3770. To speak at a Board public hearing all you have to do is call 412.622.3600. I look forward to hearing from you.

Reservoir of Jazz 2005

Tania Grubbs

Greetings Neighbors,

The ROJ Season is in place and we are happy to announce this year's talented line up. Mark your calendars for each Sunday in the month of August and the first Sunday in September from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Special thanks to Amanda and Kevin in the Special Events office for working on the event again. We are happy to have them back! Both Kevin and Amanda have been busy looking for sponsors for this event and it is never too late if you are interested.

AUGUST 7TH - JOE NEGRI TRIO
 AUGUST 14TH - DWAYNE DOLPHIN
 AUGUST 21ST - KENNY BLAKE
 AUGUST 28TH - SEAN JONES
 SEPTEMBER 4TH - AL DOWE & ETTA COX

This event is sponsored by the Highland Park Community Club, Special Events - City of Pittsburgh Department of Parks and Recreation, State Representative Joseph Preston, Jr., Mellon Jazz, WDUQ-FM, New Pittsburgh Courier, Aunt Cheryl's Baking & Catering.

See you in August!

Charles Thomas Cayce Lectures at St. Andrew's

Al Mann

Some of you may know of my interest in the work of the noted medical intuitive Edgar Cayce (1877-1945). In an editorial a few years ago, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* referred to Edgar Cayce as the father of holistic healing in the United States. On Friday evening May 13, we will have the opportunity to hear a talk by Edgar Cayce's grandson, Charles Thomas Cayce, Ph.D., whose topic will be "God Is Still Speaking." Dr. Cayce will speak at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Hampton St. in Highland Park on Friday May 13, 8:00 pm. The program is free and open to the public. Come and bring your friends.

Dr. Cayce is a popular lecturer, speaking all over the country on the potential of the human mind, relationships, meditation, how to deal creatively with the stresses of our changing times, and how to integrate spirituality into our daily lives. My wife Gen and I have known Charles Thomas Cayce for over 40 years, going back to his teen years. We are pleased to host him in Pittsburgh. Call me if you have any questions about this program. 412-661-5947.

THE WAY WE WERE...

SOME PAST "UN-NATURAL" DISASTERS

Pat Miller

Last month we talked about some of our "natural" disasters like floods and blizzards. This month let's look at some "manmade" disasters like fires, explosions, epidemics and pollution which, if we had perhaps been more careful, might not have happened.

Pittsburgh's most disastrous fire happened in 1845 when most buildings were wooden and fire fighting equipment was primitive, consisting of horse drawn vehicles carrying barrels of water. The fire started at Ferry and Second Ave. in downtown Pittsburgh. When firefighters attached their hoses they got only a weak stream of muddy water. The fire, which raged uncontrolled, destroyed 982 buildings, burned 56 acres, and left 1/3 of the city in ashes.

Our most famous explosion is mentioned in many Civil War histories. It occurred at the Allegheny Arsenal on Butler St. in Lawrenceville. The Arsenal made munitions for the Union army during the Civil War. On September 17, 1862 a mysterious explosion blew up the Arsenal killing 78 employees--most of whom were children since this was before child labor laws. While it was first believed to have been caused by Confederate sympathizers, it was later ruled an accident.

Pittsburgh has had its share of devastating epidemics. In 1854, 400 people died of cholera in two weeks. In 1890,

in only one week, 28 people in East Liberty died of typhoid and scarlet fever because of a lack of sewers leading to increased impurities in Allegheny River water. In 1905, 1906 and 1908 combined, we had a total of 10,552 cases of typhoid--and Typhoid Mary didn't even live here! In the 1918 flu epidemic 23,268 Pittsburghers got influenza and 4,500 died in a two-month period. Influenza revisited us in 1941, but instead of many deaths there were just many school closings.

Perhaps our biggest manmade disaster was smog. Back in 1815, when we were nowhere near as industrial as we would become, Pittsburgh newspapers advocated a plan for smoke abatement. In 1929 city council authorized installation of smoke prevention equipment in the city's water pumping station at Brilliant in Highland Park. But things just got worse. In 1941 the streetlights were often on at noon solidifying our reputation as the "smoky city". But it was more than just a PR problem because in February 1941 the black smog that hung over the city caused widespread illness. In January 1944 a "ceiling zero" smog blanketed Pittsburgh and prevented thousands of war workers from getting to their jobs or home.

We made headline news with our smog problem in October 1948. I lived in Denver when the big national news story was about Pittsburgh's four-day smog alert, which caused the deaths of 20 people in nearby Donora. I confess that I was nervous when I moved here in 1967, but now Pittsburgh has more blue skies than Denver and I'm glad to be here!

Yard Sale

It's time to get ready for the annual Highland Park Yard Sale! Clean out those closets and basements and make a few bucks. The yard sale will be held the **first Sunday in June, the 5th**, as is the tradition. The only difference this year is that Judy Wolfe is taking a break and Kelly Vitti will be organizing it. The cost to participate is \$12.00 which covers advertising, balloons/signs and maps to identify participating houses. **Deadline to register is June 1.** If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below and send it with your check to: Kelly Vitti, 5500 Bryant St., Pittsburgh, Pa 15206. Or email: kvitti@comcast.net. Phone: 361-7669. Participants can pick up their packages at 5500 Bryant on Saturday June 4th after 9 AM.

Highland Park Yard Sale

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Items: _____

Block Watch

Jan Stayianos

Crime statistics in Highland Park have dropped to half since this time last year. March statistics were as follows: Burglary (5-all residence) Theft (7 – 3 vehicle, 3 residence, 1 business) Vehicle Theft (1100 Portland). I hope that means everyone is being more diligent about locking your cars and homes. Commander Brackney reports that Zone 5 has had eleven months with a steady decrease in crime and leads all other zones year-to-date. There have been only four homicides since January with three of them solved already. She is very proud of the work that is being done in Zone 5 by her officers.

The authorities say that crimes are being solved in large part due to the use of silent complaint forms which are being used more by people. I urge all of you to utilize them for any reason – drug activity, nuisance landlords/tenants, graffiti, gang activity, etc. The more complaints or 911 calls the police receive, the easier it is for crimes to be solved. Silent complaint forms can be picked up at Zone 5 and I usually have them at HPCC meetings.

I want to call your attention to several activities going on in our area, not necessarily in Highland Park. One is a scam where the perpetrator takes digital photos of credit card numbers rather than stealing the credit cards. This has happened at Club One and several senior centers. So be very careful about leaving your purse/wallet where something like this can happen. Another is a man going door to door saying he needs money for his car which has broken down. He has been seen most recently in the Rippey Street area of East Liberty and in Friendship. Call 911 immediately if this man comes to your door. The third activity was a man going through the mail of a house on Wellesley as the owner was walking home. She asked the man to leave her porch but he did not. When she walked away to call 911 the man left the porch with a few pieces of her mail in his hand and got into the passenger side of a purple conversion van with gray stripes and a roof rack. She was not able to get a license number. When the officer arrived he said it was not a police problem and that she should report the incident to the Postal Service. I have spoken with Bruce Hammerly (412-359-7946), the Team Leader for the Postal Inspection. He tells me that 911 is the correct way to go. The police can get someone to respond faster than the Postal Service. Another number for the Postal Service, which answers 24 hours a day, is 412-359-7000. If you have had something like this happen to you, call Commander Brackney at Zone 5 so she can investigate.

Drugs continue to be a problem in Highland Park with many of us feeling frustrated that things don't get any better. Narcotics is a relatively small division to cope with the drug problem that exists in our city. Arrests have been made recently at Baker/Butler (the Buy & Fly), 7300 Butler, Highview/Springer Way, Euclid/Bunkerhill, Roxanne Way, and Lake St.

Don't forget what Block Watch is all about – people watching out for people. When witnessing any suspicious activity, take notes and get good details so that you can give a good description to the police should you have to call 911. Being a Block Watch captain isn't a time consuming job. If you are interested in doing this important volunteer job, please call me at 412-363-8208 and I'll get you started. The main thing to

remember is to pay attention to what is going on around you. Call 911 for any suspicious activity. And don't forget to use silent complaint forms for non-emergency type problems. If you ever have a negative response to a 911 call and are not happy with the officer's handling of the situation, call Zone 5 at 412-665-3605 and speak with a supervisor.

Let's all do whatever it takes to keep our neighborhood safe. When you go on vacation this summer use timers, stop the mail and newspaper. Have a friend watch your home, cut the grass, etc. If you have any questions or want to talk about anything, feel free to call me. In the meantime, have a happy and safe summer.

Zoning Enforcement

Dell Ziegler

The HPCC works very hard to insure that zoning laws are enforced. The process begins with telephone complaints/inquiries to me, notices from the City of Zoning hearings, or of my personal observations. We try to handle matters informally, quickly, and in a neighborly way. At the other extreme, we have pursued serious offenders through the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the local and appellate courts. We are responsible for one of the landmark zoning cases in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, terminating an absentee landlord's use of seven apartments which was erroneously approved by the City in an old house in R-2 zoning on Wellesley Avenue. We do not always oppose variances or exceptions to the Code. But we do have a standing resolution opposing such variances and exceptions unless an applicant has come to the HPCC with compelling reasons why he/she should not be complying with the same standards that apply to the rest of the neighborhood.

Three examples from the last six months will give you a sense of what we do:

One involved complaints from several neighbors about an apparent commercial use in a residential block. The owner was operating a construction business and using the back yard to store all sorts of large equipment and piles of construction materials, as well as parking commercial trucks in the back yard. I verified the complaints and called in the matter to the City, following up with a fax. A month went by without hearing anything and with no change at the location. I called the City again and sent another copy of the fax with details. It has been three weeks, so it is time to call the City again. Usually, they are more responsive.

Two was an email reporting a rumor that someone at 1127 Portland was converting a house into three units where the zoning only allows two. I drove by and saw active construction and a dumpster in front. I found the contractor, who was happy to show me around and explain the work. He was from Braddock Avenue. He had purchased the house from a bank or government agency. Its former owner was a veteran who apparently had not been able to keep up with required maintenance. There had been damage to the slate roof and water damage on three floors. This contractor saw an opportunity and knew the value of the nice features in this house. He was stripping paint from nice old hardwood and maintaining most of the old charm, and adding a large master bath and other more modern features. He was not trying to convert to three units. In fact, he was selling the house as a one family dwelling. I was so impressed that I was ready to suggest that the home go on the House Tour when finished. Unfortunately, the contractor expects to be finished in a couple of

months and to have the house on the market long before fall. This house represented everything that we had been working for over the last 30 years—to make Highland Park a "self-correcting" neighborhood where the marketplace saw "problem properties" as opportunities, made investments because the neighborhood is fundamentally sound, and then made money on the resale.

Number three was a more traditional zoning situation. I received a notice that an owner at 935 Highland, at the corner of Wellesley, was requesting variances to allow him to subdivide his large back yard and construct two residences in it. This was an unusual request for an unusual property. It was formerly a mansion on a large 20,000 square foot lot. The applicable zoning was one-family, with a minimum lot size of 5000 square feet. If the lot were subdivided, it would be allowed four dwellings. However, this property was grand-fathered with legal permission for 10 units. The mansion had long been sub-divided into nine apartments, with another in the rear carriage house. Squeezing two more houses in the back yard—and eliminating the back yard— would have been a serious blow to the area.

I spent a couple of hours one Sunday knocking on doors of nearby neighbors and was able to find the real key to successful zoning opposition—a half dozen concerned neighbors who were willing to spend some time to deal with the problem. I put together a short legal brief for the Zoning Board. Then I found that I would be out of town on the hearing date. I called attorney Dan Curtin, who has helped out with zoning matters over the last twenty years. Dan was able to attend the hearing and to meet with the neighbors before the hearing.

At the hearing, the Zoning Board took the unusual step of postponing the case and telling the parties to meet and try to settle the matter. The owner chose not to attend but instead sent two men who worked for the developer of the proposed two new homes. They were very polite but had few details of the proposed new buildings and stated that they thought that there were no zoning problems and that they could have asked for more, implying that they were being good guys and we were getting off easy. There was no settlement.

When the hearing reconvened, Dan and I split the lawyer duties and 5 or 6 neighbors showed up to testify in opposition. The testimony supported what we had always believed—the applicant did not come remotely close to meeting the five-part test to obtain a variance. We submitted our brief at the hearing. The applicant was given two weeks to submit his brief. When none was filed, I called the opposing lawyer. He advised me that he had only been brought into the matter just before the reconvened hearing and that they would be withdrawing the variance requests. He could see that we were serious and, more importantly, that his client was going to lose.

Chalk one up to the good guys. Thanks to Dan Curtin, Monica and John Watt, Judy Wolfe, and several other neighbors. We were able to eliminate a potentially serious long-term problem in a few months. Since then, the property has been put up for sale and we are trying to find a responsible owner.

Public Safety Initiative on Mellon Street

Michael Johnson, Juanita Everett, Dell Ziegler

Over the past two months, the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC) has presented to our neighbors details on efforts to provide new businesses and residences on Bryant Street, and to renovate and upgrade existing residences on the 800 block of Mellon St. These initiatives are technically challenging, expensive, and quite long in the making. Nevertheless, HPCDC, and its partners, including East Liberty Development, Inc., are poised to make fundamental change in the composition and quality of the built environment in Highland Park.

However, improving the character and quality of life in a community does not come about solely as a result of construction or introduction of new businesses - especially in residential neighborhoods such as the 800 block of Mellon Street or the "southwest quadrant" of Highland Park. More generally, the desirability of a block is closely associated with perceptions of public safety, community stability and the ability of neighbors to help each other and work together for positive change. Thus, HPCDC, in conjunction with the Highland Park Community Club and ordinary Highland Park residents, is embarking on an effort to improve the level of public safety on the 800 block of Mellon Street and surrounding streets, and increase the capacity of the local community to collaborate with the Bureau of Police directly and connect with other organizations to provide necessary social services.

We believe that a block and a neighborhood that is seen as becoming safer and more effective in policing itself will be one that can welcome new neighbors who will occupy the housing units HPCDC is currently developing as partners and equals. We also believe that we can reduce to some extent the annual increase in criminal activity and antisocial behavior associated with the coming summer months.

In order for public safety efforts to be effective, the community needs to develop and promote outreach efforts to raise crime awareness and promote involvement. The HPCDC/HPCC Mellon Street Public Safety Initiative ("the Public Safety Initiative") hopes to make this happen over the next six months.

The Public Safety Initiative has been working with local organizations such as Union Project, Urban Youth Action and YouthPlaces to implement local programs of interest to youth - such as mentoring, job training, arts-oriented recreation and tutoring. Establishing such links with other public services will help to address social and environmental concerns that impair public safety and promote criminal activity. We will work to post Neighborhood Crime Watch signs in high-crime areas. We will publicize the "Silent Complaint Form" that Commander RaShall Brackney of the Zone 5 station has advocated as a way for ordinary citizens to report crimes and undesirable behavior directly to the police without fear of identification or retribution. This form can be obtained at any police station. We believe that community policing efforts should increase with use of the Silent Complaint form coupled with the Highland Park e-mail

exchange, door-to-door canvassing to make connections with neighbors who would like to be part of the solution, and communications with merchants and landlords, encouraging them to complement the efforts of HPCDC and HPCC on and around the 800 block of Mellon Street.

While efforts to mobilize community members to take an active role against crime can reduce crime, these efforts by themselves may not make a community "crime free". Citizen participation in crime prevention and the use of our community tools to facilitate information exchange, will definitely lessen ill activity that impedes community revitalization and safety efforts. You are encouraged to be a part of the solution.

Highland Park History Group Plans Third Meeting

Rudy Maceyko

The third quarterly meeting of the Highland Park History group will be held in early June. The exact time and location have not yet been chosen.

This time we will focus on history, pictures and plans of the upper park including Reservoir #1 and the fountain and gardens. If you have any materials or stories to share, please consider joining us!

If you are not already a member of the History Group and on our email list, please send email to or call Rudy Maceyko: rm55@pobox.com , 412-441-9130

Highland Park Web Site Getting a Facelift

Rudy Maceyko

This summer the Highland Park web site will get a virtual facelift...

The improved site will feature a community calendar, image galleries and forums. Members of the community will be able to publish information without having to send it to the webmaster... How does that sound?

If you're interested in helping to get the new site ready, let the webmaster know. You do not need to know HTML in order to help, but if you know HTML, CSS, or PHP, there are opportunities for you as well.

The Highland Park web site is at: www.highlandparkpa.com

When the updated site is available it will be at that same location.

Send email to webmaster@highlandparkpa.com if you're

interested in helping (even if you've volunteered your help in the past!) or getting a sneak preview of the new site.

HPCC Membership

Kelly Meade

The current active membership is 566 households; of that number, 46 are complimentary and 75 are new memberships with 445 renewing memberships. So if you would like to receive this newsletter regularly, support the Community Club efforts and participate in the events, the opportunity is now for those of you who have not joined our ranks to do so. We look forward to hearing from you.

As a side note, I have had several newsletters returned by the post office some of which should be delivered because they do have correct and current addresses. So if for any reason your newsletter is not showing up in your mailbox, please call me. I have recently changed computers and some addresses have been lost in this transition.

And a PS - someone left a cap at my home which I found a few days after the February party, it is black with a gray band - you can pick it up at any time.

Questions or to join the HPCC, call Kelly at 412-362-0331.

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HPCC Day Camp

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 27 to August 5, 2005. Parents are free to choose 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 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. Some scholarship money is available this year so if you are interested please fill out your form and get it in early and we will try to honor your request. We will be distributing flyers to our local public schools so please get your application in early to ensure a space for your child. If you are interested in camp or have any questions please contact Janice Burgett at 361-2195 or check us out at 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, 2005 and save yourself the \$25.00 late fee.**

Highland Park Day Camp

Registration Form

(Campers from 4 through 8 years old)

SPOTS ARE LIMITED SO APPLY NOW!!

Preference given to Highland Park residents until May 21st.

1.) _____ birthdate _____
(camper's last name), (camper's first name)

2.) _____ birthdate _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email _____

1. _____ I would like information on the Day Camp scholarships. I am interested in the scholarship for the following week:

6/27 ___ 7/5 ___ 7/11 ___ 7/18 ___ 7/25 ___ 8/1 ___

2. _____ Please register my child(ren) for the following weeks (I have enclosed a check):

6/27 ___ 7/5 ___ 7/11 ___ 7/18 ___ 7/25 ___ 8/1 ___

Enclose:

\$90.00 per week for each camper (member)

or, \$100.00 per week for each camper (non-member). Membership is \$25.

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

(late fee for applications made after June 1, 2005, add \$25.00).

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

**Janice Burgett
1017 King Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

MEDICAL: 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.

SWIMMING: I hereby give my permission for my child to attend all swimming activities.

LIABILITY RELEASE: 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 child not due to intentional or gross 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: _____ # _____

Garbage Collection Reminder

Anonymous

Have you noticed a lot of garbage around the neighborhood? The problem is that many Highland Park residents set out their garbage too early in the day on the day prior to garbage collection by the City. This has always been a problem, but it has become more noticeable since the neighborhood's collection day was changed to Monday. Now we all get to see garbage accumulating all day Sunday. This is a day when we should be showing off our beautiful neighborhood!

City regulations for garbage collection state: "Municipal waste shall be placed for collection...not earlier than 7:00 pm on the day proceeding the collection day." It would help to spruce-up the appearance of the neighborhood on Sundays if everyone abided by this rule. It's the neighborly thing to do!

Of course, there may be times when someone needs to set-out early because they are going out of town. If possible, try to get a neighbor to help out. As a last resort, an occasional early set-out shouldn't be a big deal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Summer Tai Chi Classes

Susy Robison

Weekly summer Tai Chi classes begin at St. Andrew's in Highland Park on Monday, June 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Tai Chi, practiced by men and women of all ages, is an ancient Chinese system of exercise with slow and gentle motion that raises and balances the energy of the body leading to improved health and vitality. In addition, Tai Chi can be a Martial Art or system of self-defense and a meditation in motion.

Our instructor will be Judy Crow who trained in the Yang style Long Form by Y.K. Chou and has taught Tai Chi for twenty years in the Pittsburgh area.

This summer introductory class will be every Monday in June and July (excluding July 4th) from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. with an introductory fee of \$35.00 for the seven week course. Classes will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton Street in Highland Park.

To register or for more information, please call Judy at 412-363-2748.

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May at Tazza d'Oro:

WOMEN SAY NO TO WAR FILM FESTIVAL

When: Every Tuesday evening starting May 3.
 Where: Tazza D'oro 1125 N Highland Avenue - Highland Park
 Time: All Films Begin at 7PM
 Contact: 412-389-3216
 Sponsored by: Codepink Women for Peace, Palestinian Solidarity, Women's International League of Peace and Freedom

May 3 – Codepink Women for Peace present REGRET TO INFORM

May 10 - Women's International League of Peace and Freedom presents AMY GOODMAN'S INTERVIEW WITH NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER WANGARI MAATHAI.

MAY 17 - Palestinian Solidarity Committee presents THE KILLING ZONE

May 24 - Codepink Women for Peace present LIFE AND DEBT

May 31 - Palestinian Solidarity Committee present FRONTIERS OF DREAMS AND FEARS

Full descriptions and running times of all films can be found in the May issue of New People, the monthly publication of the Thomas Merton Center www.thomasmertoncenter.org, which is available free on the window ledges of Tazza d'Oro, in drop boxes or by mail. The film festival is made possible by the generous support of State Senator Jim Ferlo, who donated the TV/VCR/DVD set to Tazza d'Oro. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is showing films monthly at Tazza d'Oro on the second Tuesday of the month.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has been working since 1915 to unite women worldwide who oppose oppression and exploitation. WILPF stands for equality of all people in a world free of racism, sexism and homophobia; the building of a constructive peace through world disarmament; and the changing of government priorities to meet human needs, www.wilpf.org. US WILPF selected for its 2005-2008 campaigns, SAVE THE WATER, Water as a Human Right, and BUILDING PEACE ON JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. The local branch of WILPF meets monthly at a Highland Park residence. Local contact for more information: 412-661-7149.

2005 Highland Park Community Festival – Volunteers Needed

Brenda Cole

Volunteers are needed to complete the planning and coordination of this year's Highland Park Community Festival. The festival is an outgrowth of the Highland Park Community Plan and offers a way for all neighborhood residents to get to know each other, to volunteer and most of all to have fun! This year will mark the third edition of the festival and will offer food, activities, learning and music to young people and adults.

We're still settling on a date for the festival: it will take place either on Saturday, August 13 (when the City of Pittsburgh Art

Cart is available) or Saturday August 20. In response to comments from last year's festival attendees, we will hold the festival earlier in the afternoon than last year and have it last a bit longer. We're looking at 3 PM - 8 PM, and suggestions regarding other start and end times are most welcome.

Based on our previous experience, we need volunteers to assist with the following tasks:

- * Advertising and marketing
- * Fund raising and sponsorships
- * Music
- * Vendors
- * Children's activities (and adult monitors)
- * Information tables for local non-profits
- * Festival day set-up & breakdown
- * Encouraging local merchants to participate

If you wish to have input into this year's event and are interested in participating in any capacity, NOW is the time! Please contact the Festival Coordinator at 412-665-3646. Remember, this is a community event. In order for the festival to be a community success everyone must participate. What can you contribute?

Festival coordinator full contact information Brenda Cole, 412-665-3646, hp_cdc@netzero.net
<http://www.highlandparkcommunity.com>

T.O.L.A.T.R.
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- A small academy, housed in a stately mansion, T.O.L.A.T.R. Highland Park Preparatory Academy is able to offer individual attention to each attendee.
- T.O.L.A.T.R. (An acronym for Taylor's Oral Language Approach to Reading) Highland Park Preparatory Academy offers a unique program, which utilizes the basic phonetic and linguistic skills necessary for reading.
- T.O.L.A.T.R. Highland Park Preparatory Academy is licensed by the Department of Education for Private Academic Schools, in the State of Pennsylvania.
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Tom Dickson, a Highland Park resident, is a co-owner of Ligonier Contractors and developer of buildings such as 134 S. Highland Avenue, home of Red Room Café. Tom's partner is Tim Carns. Tim has 25 years of construction experience with residential and commercial projects of all sizes.

Ligonier Contractors has references available from Highland Park residents such as Clare Mundell and Gary Moshier.

For more information, please contact Tom Dickson at (412) 580-5954 or tom@ligoniercontractors.com.

Part-time Assistant

Seeking assistant to help manage bookkeeping and administrative functions for construction and property management business.

A strong working knowledge of Excel, Word and Internet is required. Estimated workload is 10 hours/week. Will need to work in office 4-6 hours/week.

Please contact Tom Dickson at (412) 580-5954 or tom@ligoniercontractors.com

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Help Wanted

Aide/companion/personal care for Highland Park female with ALS. Will train. Currently 4 to 5 hours weekdays. Hours will probably increase. One to two weeks every three weeks. Payroll processed through local nonprofit.

Background/criminal check. Call 412/362-4598 between 5 and 6 PM.

Union Project Update

Justin Rothshank

Call for Artists!

Union Project is requesting designs for a stained glass window design competition. Artists are requested to submit proposals for stained glass entry windows to be built and installed at the Union Project. Contest winners will receive a free stained glass class in which their windows will be built, a \$100 gift certificate at Prism Stained Glass, a Union Project T-Shirt, and will be recognized by name on a plaque commemorating their window. Design criteria are available at www.unionproject.org, by emailing Justin@unionproject.org, or by calling 412-478-3105. The designs must be submitted to the Union Project no later than May 20, 2005.

Celebrate Historic Preservation Month

Come to Union Project for Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh's Historic Preservation Month Celebration on May 6, 2005 at 6 pm. YPA has joined forces with the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP) and the Urban League of Pittsburgh to present a Historic Preservation Month celebration at the Union Project. As part of the celebration, you will hear from Adrian Fine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (the organization that created Historic Preservation Month), a representative from the Allegheny County Planning Department, and Mike Eversmeyer from the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission (and Union Project architect). YPA will also release its third-annual list of "Top Ten Best Historic Preservation Opportunities in the Pittsburgh Area." This event is free and open to the public and there will be free food, drink, and music! Information at www.youngpreservationists.org.

Union Project now accepting applications for rental partners

Union Project is now accepting rental applications for use of studio, office, venue, and board meeting spaces at the Union Project. Rental agreements can begin as early as September 1, 2005. Union Project has 8 unique office and studio spaces available for rent. In addition, there are 3 separate common areas that are available for use as worship space, performance space, board meeting space, weddings, and other civic gathering opportunities. Visit www.unionproject.org for more details, or email jess@unionproject.org or call 412-363-4550.

Call for Volunteers!

Union Project is in need of several dedicated volunteers to spend a few hours each week at Storehouse, a Pittsburgh organization that redistributes abundance to local non -profits. Union Project representatives must volunteer approximately 12 hours per month in the warehouse doing jobs such as sorting, packaging, arranging, labeling, loading, and unloading, phone answering, paperwork, cleaning and building maintenance. If you are interested in supporting the Union Project in this way please contact Justin@unionproject.org or call 412-478-3105.

Magic Penny Garden Dates Announced

Artist Stephanie Flom will be engaging community members to create a garden installation on our highly visible corner at Stanton and Negley Avenues this summer. Through the Persephone Project, Stephanie has been promoting gardening as contemporary art and gardeners as artists. Her Magic Penny Gardens are made with the perennial plants shared by community members and honor the stories that gardeners

associate with the special plants that they share.

Registered project participants will work with Stephanie to create a Magic Penny Garden for the Union Project. They will also explore her concept of gardens-as-art and share their own creative experiences in their gardens. Participants will also help to plan the community events associated with the garden and have an opportunity to stay involved for the on-going maintenance of the garden.

Sessions will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 pm for 8 weeks beginning June 1 and running through July 20. The suggested donation to cover cost of materials is \$25 per person. The class is open to 10 people. Members should be age 16 and up. If you are interested in this class please contact Justin@unionproject.org, call 412-478-3105, or visit www.unionproject.org.

Press Release

Contact: Jessica King
412-363-4550
jess@unionproject.org

April 5, 2005

For Immediate Release

Stained Glass Restoration Reaching Beyond Union Project into Community

The Union Project, an East End non-profit organization that is restoring the former Union Baptist Church to provide gathering and working space for artists, community builders and people of faith, has partnered with Highland Park Community Development Corporation and East Liberty Development, Inc., to expand and replicate its innovative stained glass restoration concept to benefit the larger East End community.

Union Project has announced a weekend stained glass restoration class that will repair and restore a large stained glass window that was removed from a six unit apartment building at 839 N. Mellon Street, just one block from the Union Project. The Mellon Street property is part of a \$4 Million renovation project of HPCDC and ELDI aimed at renovating 12 houses and a 7 unit apartment building all in the southwest quadrant of Highland Park.

The weekend stained glass restoration class is being planned for August 12-14. Class members will pay \$250 to learn the craft of stained glass restoration, while at the same time providing valuable assistance to three local non-profit organizations that serve East Liberty and Highland Park.

The Union Project has renovated over 60 windows using this innovative win-win-win concept, already saving over \$500,000 in restoration costs and teaching over 100 students the skills of restoring and building stained glass windows. The Union Project offers ongoing stained glass restoration classes to continue the restoration of the windows housed in its historic 15,000 square foot stone church building.

Since its inception, over three years ago, the Union Project has worked with over 1,100 volunteers to prepare the building for new construction. Renovations valued at over \$1,646,000 are underway at the Union Project and will continue to provide opportunities for volunteers to be part of the restoration of this important community landmark.

To sign up for the class or find out more information about the Union Project visit www.unionproject.org or call 412-478-3105.

Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA)

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. Now you can get fresh, local, fruits and vegetables for your family delivered right to your neighborhood. I'm sure you have seen Harvest Valley Farms at the Highland Park or East Liberty farmers markets. We grow over 58 varieties of fruits and vegetables. But now you will not have to wait in line or fight traffic or settle for what is left. Your "share" of the harvest will be delivered and ready for you to pick up just minutes from your home at your convenience. Your family deserves the very best tasting, fresh, local, fruits and vegetables you can buy. Now it is easier than ever to get them with Harvest Valley Farms CSA.

To join or get more information, please visit our website at www.harvestvalleyfarms.com or call 724-443-5869.

Urban EcoSteward Opportunities in Highland Park

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is providing great volunteer opportunities in Highland Park. If you are interested in helping fight the spread of non-native and invasive plant species by tending to a small plot of land in the park, the Urban EcoSteward program is for you...

The areas the UES volunteers are concentrating on now are adjacent to the Babbling Brook. Each volunteer is only expected to tend to their designated area a handful of times during the year. The Parks Conservancy can provide training if you need it--sign up soon to be able to participate.

Call Bonnie Kwolek, Volunteer Coordinator at the Parks Conservancy, at 412-682-7275 if you are interested.

Dog Owners - Be Smart

Bill

Winter has finally given up its grip and the trees are budding, the daffodils are blooming, people are out and about with their families and their pets. Some pets get to go for a ride in the family car. How lucky they are - a family to love them, take them for rides and let them stick their heads out the windows.... WHAT??? ... let them stick their heads out the windows while the car is going down the highway at considerable speed? Are the owners' nuts???? At 35 miles an hour, do you know what can happen to your beloved pet?? Here are two horror stories that I know of: 1) my dad was driving his car with the dog (Tag was his name) hanging out the window because he liked it. Tag got hit with a Bee in his eye. After some effort on the Vets part, Tag lost his eye. The Bee had stung the dog in his eye (and that had to hurt). The Vet bill was over \$400 dollars and that was back in 1961. A lot of money back then. 2) A friend had his dog hanging out the window while driving and the dog fell dead on the seat. After an autopsy, it was determined that the dog died as a result of a STUD coming out of a tire (at the speed of a 22cal. bullet), went into the dogs mouth and into it's brain & killed it instantly.

I said these were horror stories.

Friends, keep your dog in the car. Turn on the AC and the dog will be safe. We have to be smarter than the dog. You wouldn't let your children hang out of the window, so why let the dog do it???

I own DUBBLEBBEES DOG GROOMING at the corner of Mellon and Wellesley and we see a lot of dogs hanging out of car windows and it scares all of us as we know what can (and will eventually) happen. Just a word of caution. Thanks for listening.

DUBBLEBBEES

Dog Grooming

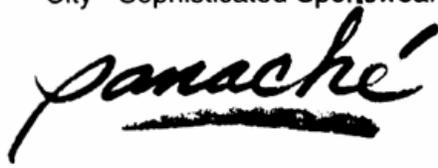


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MAY 2005 CALENDAR

MAY 2005 CALENDAR	
April 22 - May 15	Designers' Show House 2005 in Highland Park, 820 N. Highland
May 11	HPCC House Tour Meeting, 7 PM, St. Andrews
May 14	"Cinema St. Andrew", 7 PM
May 19	HPCC Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, St. Andrew
May 19	HPCC Newsletter Articles Due! Send to editor@highlandparkpa.com
June 1	HPCC Yard Sale Applications Due
June 5	HPCC Yard Sale