

Community Council Newsletter for

Edited by Lisa Williams, editor@highlandparkpa.com

The President's Column

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

Hello Neighbors,

Another House Tour come and gone. This year we had beautiful weather to get us between the beautiful houses that were on the tour. We had lots of people walking around the neighborhood, rather than driving, so they got a good look at Highland Park. I want to thank all of the folks that opened their homes and the volunteers who helped Amy, Brigette and Peter make the event such a success. A big thanks to Dilworth parents (who sold apples and baked goods); the Union Project and the Highland Park Community Development Corp, who opened their doors to allow us to see the great revitalization going on at some properties that were in really poor condition.

If you have not seen what is going on at the CDC properties, you should head down Negley (at the intersection with Avondale) or along the 800 block of Mellon and check out the work. Just the white paint being removed from 807 Mellon makes a big improvement to that street. I can't wait to see what it looks like when it has a porch, windows and painted trim. With 5 properties being renovated/restored on the 800 block of Mellon, it is going to change that entire section of the neighborhood. If you have any interest in doing community development, you should get in touch with someone from the CDC and discuss how you can get involved.

I am now looking forward to the Harvest Party that is being hosted by Rachel Matos and the Children's Committee. Come on up to the Farmhouse on November 5th to help out and/or enjoy meeting some of your neighbors. Kids are not required for you to have fun. Bring 'em if you got 'em. I have 2 bales of straw on my porch waiting for the kids to dig thru them as one of the activities that will be going on (the activity will be at the Farmhouse, not my porch).

Don't be afraid to volunteer to help out with something around the neighborhood. There is nothing like getting to know who lives around you and greeting folks you see around. You can start a weekly clean-up on your block; figure out the best way to remove leaves and snow so the sidewalks are clear and still have room for parking on the street; help your neighbor with a small project by lending some tools, experience, or a little time; arrange to meet at Tazza D'oro for a drink, Taj Mahal for lunch or dinner, or the fountain for a walk around the reservoir. There are many ways to make Highland Park a great place to live, and when you start something, others pick up on it and it spreads. So go start something! With the price of gas going up, we will all be keeping out homes a little cooler. It is amazing what a little activity can do to keep you warm. After a nice brisk walk, even a cold house feels warm.

There have been some reports of random mischief, and this reminds me to remind you that any negative activity, no matter how minor, should be reported to the police. If you don't feel comfortable calling them, please fill out a silent complaint form with any information about the incident. If we all work together and report what we see, we can make this an even better place to live. I believe that, and I hope you do also.

See you around the neighborhood.

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HPCC Meeting Highlights October 20, 2005

Amy

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Staresinic at 7:39 P.M.

Reports

Treasurer: Kelly Vitti reported that the August checking account balance was about \$16,100. There are also two CDs worth about \$3,392 each.

President: Bob reported that contracts have been received to be signed for the state money. One for \$5,000 to cover the mass mailing, which was supported by Senator Ferlo's office and one for \$10,000 to help support the Reservoir of Jazz, supported by Rep. Preston's office.

Block Watch: Jan Stayainos summarized the recent crime statistics. She also noted that a group of young teens was beaten-up by an older group behind Dillworth School. One teen required three days at Children's Hospital. Police were called but there are no known results.

House Tour: Bridget Naylor reminded everyone that the Tour is coming up on Saturday, October 1 from 11 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. The tour will present the King Estate plus nine other homes, the Union Project, St. Andrew's, some of the CDC restoration projects and the restored fountain at the park entrance. She encouraged everyone to attend. They have ordered fine fall weather for the day. She also noted that they need ten more volunteers. Also would like someone to hang more posters, especially in the Mt. Lebanon area.

The house tour committee will have a thank you party for home owners and volunteers on October 22.

Newsletter: Lisa Williams noted that anyone who hasn't gotten recent newsletters should call Membership Chair Kelly Meade who maintains the mailing list.

Yard Sale: Kelly Vitti reported that there was a good participation in the yard sale and a lot of customers. She reported a profit of about \$1000. Kelly noted that Judy Wolfe says she'll be back next year.

Children's Committee: Rachel Matos reported that there will be a Harvest Party November 5 at the Farm House (outside). She is looking for volunteers to help for one to two hours the day of the party. Call her to volunteer.

Reservoir of Jazz: Bob Staresinic reported that this year's series was a great success. It ran for five weeks with great weather each Sunday. There were planned children's activities including making play instruments and playing with the band at the end of the concert. Thanks to Tania Grubbs, CitiParks, the sponsors, the bands and the volunteers who made it all possible.

H. P. C. C.

Officers, Directors & Committees

Officers

President: Bob Staresinic (441-8972) Vice President: Dell Ziegler (363-0742) Treasurer: Kelly Vitti (361-7669) Secretary: Amy Enrico (889-6105)

Directors

John Ciroli 665-0513 (06) Marie Jackson 441-2450 (06) Amy Maceyko 441-9130 (06) Mike Nadler 363-6869 (07) Kate Carrigan 441-0722 (07) Bob Arnold 362-8746(07) Brenda Cole 665-8779 (08) Monica Watt 361-7902 (08) Eric Randall 661-1176 (08)

Committees

Beautification: Dana Thomas (720-0907) danathomas838@hotmail.com Children: Rachel Matos 361-3802 Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195 Finance: Dell Ziegler (363-0742) House Tour: Amy Maceyko 441-9130; Brigette Nadler 363-6869; Peter Hughes 363-4603 Membership: Kelly Meade 362-0331 Newsletter: Lisa Williams 665-3933 Nominating: Bob Staresinic (441-8972) Public Safety: Jan Stayianos 363-8208 Reservoir of Jazz: Tania Grubbs Super Playground: ---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 NEWSLETTER PAGE 3

Beautification: Dana Thomas asked for input on areas the Beautification Committee should work on. Some ideas already being considered include picking up litter, clearing out the grass and weeds growing in the cracks in the sidewalks or at the curb, trimming tree branches that hang down and obstruct sidewalks, etc. Call her with any other suggestions. She's is posting handbills to remind residents to clean-up yards and walks for the day of the house tour so that we present our best face to the visitors for the tour.

New Business:

Changes to the Bylaws: A revised set of bylaws for the club was presented in the September newsletter with a call to vote on the changes in this meeting. Del Ziegler summarized the changes as follows:

- Change the name of the organization from Highland Park Community Club to Highland Park Community Council.
- Reduce the size of the elected board from 15 to nine. Starting with tonight's election, three board members would be elected each year. Serving board members who have been elected will continue in office until their terms are up. (That is, the class of 2006 and 2007 will remain five members, so the elected board will not be nine until after the 2007 election.)
- Eliminate Vice President of Community Development and Immediate Past President as officers and board members.
- Change terminology for the office of Vice President from Vice President Elect to Vice President.
- Reduce number of standing committees by eliminating the Recreation and Community Development Committees from the list of "Standing Committees". Of course, these two may be activated as appointed committees when needed.

During the discussion there was concern expressed over the name change - perhaps we will lose our recognition. It was explained that the change to Council from Club will reduce the misconception that the organization is primarily social or exclusive. By retaining the same initials, we hope to retain recognition.

THE WAY WE WERE...

Pat Miller

TRANSPORTATION

Many of us are fretting about the high cost of gasoline and vowing to use public transportation instead. This is perhaps a good time to look back on how we used to get around.

The Pennsylvania Canal was built in 1829 enabling passengers to get from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh in only 3 ½ days. Almost overnight the popularity of the canal made Pittsburgh the second largest city in the state. The trip was not easy because in mountainous areas passengers had to switch to railroad cars while the passenger boats

were pulled up or let down by stationary steam engines.

In 1851 the railroad arrived in Pittsburgh and 1852 saw the first train from Philadelphia directly to East Liberty---a much easier trip than by canal. It got even easier in 1854 when a tunnel was built through a mountainous area reducing the travel time between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia to a mere 15 hours. By 1857 the railroad had replaced the canal system.

In 1859 two horse car lines connected East Liberty directly to Oakland and downtown. There was as yet no urban development beyond East Liberty. Our streets were either dirt or cobblestone. Penn Ave., our main street, was paved with wooden blocks and had toll stations at several points. It had horse drawn trolleys and gas streetlights.

In 1889 the Fifth Ave. horse car system was replaced by cable cars, the city's first "rapid transit system". Things didn't all go smoothly however since the many horses still sharing the streets were often frightened by these strange new creatures and reared up or bolted, causing serious accidents. Cable cars made it possible to get from downtown to East Liberty in only 60 instead of 90 minutes. The fare was seven cents and cable cars ran every 15 minutes.

But cable cars weren't the only option: in 1890 40 trains per day came to East Liberty. By the first decade of the 20th century East Liberty had 104 trains per day and more trains were stopping at the East Liberty station than at Philadelphia's busy Broad St. station.

In 1900 a "rapid transit road" from downtown to the East End was cut out of the side of Bedford Hill. Then it was known as Grant Blvd. Now we call it Bigelow Blvd. It was ideal for all those folks who preferred those new-fangled autos to public transportation. And we had plenty of them. In the first decade of the 20th century Pittsburgh was home to 3,000 autos, 2,000 of which were in the East End.

But even with all those cars public transportation didn't lose its appeal. In addition to the frequency of the service, the price was right. In 1917 the trolley fare was essentially unchanged from the 1889 fare of seven cents. It didn't increase to 10 cents until 1948. Ah, those were the days!

Block Watch

Jan Stayianos

Summer has come and gone and in spite of our efforts to be vigilant in protecting ourselves and our property, our crime statistics in Highland Park are up. I just hope that not too many of you have been victims.

Crime statistics are as follows:

August – Robbery: 1 - Highview and Avondale; Burglary: 4 - all residence; Theft: 13-3 from person, 8 from vehicle, 2 from business; Vehicle Theft: 8 – 1100 N St. Clair (2), 900 N. Negley, 1000 Sheridan, 100 Portland, 1100 Mellon, 5500 Jackson, 5400 Jackson; Firearms – 1 Arrest.

September – Rape: 1 – 5600 Wellesley; Robbery: 1 – 800 Portland; Burglary: 9 – 5 from residence, 4 from business; Theft: 17 – 4 from person, 7 from vehicle, 6 from residence; Vehicle Theft: 7 – 5500 Stanton (2) 5500 Bryant, 800 Chislett, 100 N. Euclid, Washington Blvd @ Allegheny Blvd, 1200 N. Highland.

At the recent city-wide public safety meeting Chief McNeilly reported that in spite of how bad things look, there has been a steady decline in crime in Pittsburgh in the last 4 or 5 years with Zone 5 leading all other zones in crime reduction. The majority of homicides in Zone 5 are solved and 80 % of assaults are solved. A new class of police recruits has just completed training and will be hitting the streets soon, bringing the number of officers up to 882. The Chief says that all major cities across the country are having the same problems that we are Our police department is known experiencing. across the country as a top notch police department and the Chief and his employees are often asked to speak or train in other cities.

Hank Caparelli, Shift Commander for 911, told us that 911 gets a million calls a year and that 96 - 98% of those calls are answered in 10 seconds. While he is not aware of any complaints, he would like to hear from people who have them so that he can monitor his employees. Hank can be reached at 412-473-3658 and he welcomes your calls. He has also extended an invitation for anyone to visit the 911 facility. If anyone would like to do that, give me a call and, if I get enough interest, I'll set something up.

I don't normally know about the crimes that happen in Highland Park until I get the statistics or unless someone calls me. However, recently, in a matter of a few weeks I was made aware of or personally involved in three incidents. First was the beating of three young boys by a large gang on St. Marie Street behind Dilworth School. I received a call from someone who had been given my name. I met with the families on Glenview Street to talk about block watch and learned the details of the incident. One of the boys spent three days in Children's Hospital but is all right today.

Next I heard that a close friend's house had been broken into on September 30 on Bunker Hill in broad daylight. They broke in through the front door with a crowbar. They stole TVs, stereo, computer, jewelry, dining room chairs, and her van. She thinks that they would have taken her table if it would have fit in her van. The officer who responded said that there were two other home burglaries on Heberton that same afternoon. I haven't been able to get any more information on those burglaries.

Then on October 1, the day of our wonderful house tour, with hundreds of people walking in Highland Park, my very own husband was held up with a switchblade at the corner of Highland and Bryant by two young men (18-20 years old). The one who didn't have the knife put his hand on his 38 so Spiro could see that he had it. They took his cash, watch, ring, cross, and jacket and ordered him not to yell and to walk away. Much to my surprise, Spiro did exactly what they ordered. It was a very scary experience as you might expect. I called my crime watch officer on Monday to ask if anything else had happened during the house tour because I had visions of these guys snatching the purses of little old ladies who had come to enjoy the house tour. He said that two cars were broken into that afternoon.

All I can say is for everyone to be on the defensive, look out for yourselves and your neighbors, and call 911 for anything that is troubling to you. Remember to get good details. It is up to all of us to keep our neighborhood safe. Chief McNeilly heard something at a conference in Toronto recently which was "The solution to crime doesn't end with the tail lights of a police car." It's up to EVERYONE. Stay safe and feel free to call me if you have any questions at 412-363-8208.

THE PITTSBURGH CAMERATA Gail Luley

presents

"The Holly & the Ivy"

The Pittsburgh Camerata with Artistic Director Rebecca Rollett present a Christmas concert of floriferous carols and motets from around the world. The performances take place on Saturday, December 10, 8:00 PM at Sixth Presbyterian Church, 1688 Murray Ave in Squirrel Hill (on the corner of Murray and Forbes); Sunday, December 11, 3:00 PM at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 378 Delaware St. in Oakmont; Friday, December 16. 8:00 PM at Smithfield United Church. 620 Smithfield St., Downtown; and Saturday, December 17, 8:00 PM at. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton St in Highland Park. Tickets are \$15, general admission and \$6 for students and can be purchased at the box office on the evening of the performance or in advance by calling 412.421.5884. For more information, call 412-421-5884 or visit the Camerata's website at www.pittsburghcamerata.org.

Many plants have a traditional association with Christmas, which have become a beloved part of the Yuletide celebration. The Pittsburgh Camerata will sing a variety of motets and carols that arose from the floriferous legends of Christmas. Some of these carols are well known, such as Deck the Hall (traditional Welsh), O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree, traditional German) and of course, The Holly and the Ivy (traditional English)—not to be confused with Ivy and Holly (traditional Irish). Other motets are ancient and unusual, such as A Solis Ortus Cardine (From Lands that See the Sun Arise) by Gilles de Binchois (c.1400-1460), Congratulamini Nunc Omnes (Now Let Us All Rejoice In God Our Savior) by Nicolas Zangius (c.1570-c.1618) and Laetentur Caeli (Let the Heavens Rejoice) by Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612).

Artistic Director Rebecca Rollett has also unearthed some unusual legends of Christmas as portrayed in the traditional Spanish carol *Hacia Belen*, about a donkey, a pot of chocolate and Mary on their way to Bethlehem. Ralph Vaughan William's collection of English carols *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, plus motets referring to the Rose of Christmas complete the 2005 Christmas concert by the 24-voice professional chamber choir.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette music critic Andrew Druckenbrod said of The Pittsburgh Camerata's 2003 Christmas concert, "On Monday evening, it was a pleasant shock to peer down the program of the Pittsburgh Camerata's holiday concert and see a

wealth of carols and songs never, or rarely, heard. If you are in the least bit tired of jingling bells, decked halls or clever commercial re-writes of the "12 Days of Christmas," this is a program not to be missed." He went on to say; "The effectiveness of this collection would have been academic had the singers failed to bring the obscure music alive"...they "sang with confidence and a lush timbre."

The Pittsburgh Camerata is a professional chamber choir dedicated to performances distinguished by imaginative programming in intimate settings. The ensemble's ongoing activities include a 10-concert public subscription series presented throughout the greater Pittsburgh area. Founded in 1974, the group specializes in the entire choral repertory with a unique focus on Renaissance/Baroque and 20th century works. The group also records and produces compact discs and tours in the tri-state region.

This concert is made possible, in part through the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts program of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), a state agency. It is funded by the citizens of Pennsylvania through an annual legislative appropriation, and administered locally by ProArts. The PCA is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The Pittsburgh Camerata's next concert is titled "Sacred Songs & Interludes" and will take place on March 18, 19 and 25. Single tickets are \$15 (general admission) and \$6 (students) and may be purchased in advance by calling 412.421.5884. For additional information, call the Pittsburgh Camerata or visit their web site at www.pittsburghcamerata.org.

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School Board Update

Patrick Dowd

Three weeks ago Mark Roosevelt took his oath of office as the new Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

As his first action Superintendent Roosevelt asked the board to join him in taking an "Oath of Commitment to the Children of the Pittsburgh Public Schools." For the first time ever, nine board members and Superintendent Roosevelt vowed "to put the interest of children first in every decision" and "to work cooperatively and respectfully with all members of the Pittsburgh Public School Community." We also affirmed our belief that all children can meet the highest standards of achievement and conduct.

Superintendent Roosevelt has been honest about the academic challenges facing the district. With the

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return of the 2005 PSSA data in September, the district once again fell short of expectations. Pittsburgh is now classified as a district in the School Improvement II category. This status signifies that we are not meeting performance standards and face a possible state take-over next year. Our achievement gaps are not closing. We also see that from school to school there are extremely wide fluctuations in performance. For example, from school to school the percentage of students proficient in mathematics varied from 5% to 95%. In reading that variation was slightly less: they varied from 17% to 85% proficient. Clearly, this unevenness is not acceptable.

Superintendent Roosevelt has been honest about some of the problems of the past. Dr. John Young, the Acting Deputy Superintendent, informed the board about the lack of communication between the central office and building principals. He told us about the lack of a comprehensive system of evaluating the performance of principals. He also discussed early plans for addressing these old and critical problems. Superintendent Roosevelt and his team are also looking closely at the curriculum and its alignment as well as auditing our compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The board anticipates further updates in the coming months.

With his oath in mind and facing these very real academic challenges, Superintendent Roosevelt is working diligently to craft a school realignment plan. Working closely with a team of experts, the Superintendent is asking tough questions. How are schools performing after accounting for differences in student background? How do student academic growth rates differ across schools? What are the graduation rates of each high school? (A report can be found on my website www.patrickdowd.org) His plan is being driven entirely by the belief that we can close schools and deliver more effective and efficient education services to all children in Pittsburgh. This student-centered approach to school closings is a new and very welcomed approach.

As we shape the 2006 budget, Superintendent Roosevelt is steadfastly focused on his oath to the students. To be honest, the budgetary issues are serious. For 2006, the Pittsburgh Public Schools face a budget gap of approximately \$47 million. The state legislature has contributed significantly to the budget deficit by shifting tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue from the school district to the financially strapped City of Pittsburgh. Salary increases and rising healthcare cost contribute to the projected deficit.

Regardless of the causes, the board and Superintendent know taxes cannot increase and that expenditures must decrease. For the last few years the board has operated with the belief that we could hold taxes down and reduce expenditures responsibly over the long-term. The actions of the state make that extremely difficult. Still, the board and superintendent remain committed to the belief that we can deliver higher quality education services for few dollars.

In the coming days, Superintendent Roosevelt will be calling upon elected officials and citizens of this region to participate in improving the quality of education for our students. It is my hope that we will all be guided by the same oath as the superintendent. Improving education is not just about the public schools, it is about the future generations of Pittsburghers.

I **STAND OUT** FROM THE CROWD ... SO DO MY **LISTINGS**.





Dana Thomas

City Office 5801 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217 412-521-5500 ext. 307

7-DAYS PER WEEK/24-HOUR CONTACT 412-720-0907 Dana838@vzw.blackberry.net

Highland Park Resident.

Active Highland Park Community Council Member:
House Tour Chairperson: 2000 - 2004
Current Beautification Chairperson

(Photo Courtesy of Mara Rago)

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The Traditional
Martial Arts Society
5738 Baum Blvd.

Adults

Aiki Jujutsu: 7 - 8pm M-Th Weapons: 8 - 9pm M-Th

Youth Atemi

6 - 7pm Tue, 9 - 10am Sat

(412) 361-1080

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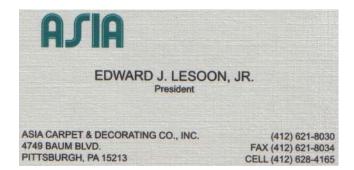
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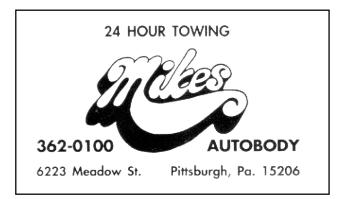
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Union Project Update

Justin Rothshank

UnWrapped comes home to Union Project

Union Project announces its grand opening celebration and 4th annual Christmas sale "UnWrapped", to take place at the Union Project on Friday, November 18 through Saturday, December 17. The Grand Opening celebration begins on November 18 with a 6:30 pm preview party showcasing the artwork of local artists working in ceramics, glass, and oil painting followed by a 7:30 pm concert with Pittsburgh Symphony's Chamber Orchestra conducted by Andres Cardenes and featuring Damian Bursill-Hall and Jennifer Conner on flute. Tickets to this event are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. The month long grand opening celebration will coincide with the Union Project's annual Christmas tree sale with all sales benefiting the Union Project. Trees and wreaths will be sold 7 days a week beginning November 27 and continuing until Christmas eve and local art and craftwork will be for sale in the Union Project Atrium. Each Friday in December the Union Project will host "Union Hours" with live music, local art, and refreshments from 6 – 8 pm in the Union Project Great Hall with a closing celebration scheduled for Friday, December 16. Email Justin@unionproject.org or call 412-363-4550 for ticket information.







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St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street * Highland Park

Sunday Morning Services – November

9 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel 11 a.m. Choral Morning Worship Nursery available during both services 9:45 am Church School / Classes MidWeek Bible Study – Wed 10:30 am

Visit our Homepage: www.forministrv.com/15206saec

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Daniel J. LandisSales Associate
"I Make House Calls!"



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Highland Park Community Club, Inc.

> P.O. Box 5036 Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Return Service Requested

TIME VALUE

Nov 5 Harvest Party at the Farm House

Nov 17 HPCC Annual Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, St. Andrews

Nov 17 HPCC Newsletter Articles Due! Send to editor@highlandparkpa.com

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U S Postage
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Pittsburgh, PA
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