

# Community Council Newsletter for

Edited by Lisa Williams, editor@highlandparkpa.com

### The President's Column

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

Happy New Year!

I hope the holidays were good for everyone. It was a fun time for me, as included in the time between November 17th and January 6th are 10 family birthdays. Two cousins had babies in December, and my brother and nephew were visiting from Serbia. All that and the Steelers keep winning. I am not a big sports fan, but I did watch a few games. And I will be watching on February 5th. Go Steelers!

Spring is right around the corner. I just found some bulbs that I neglected to get in the ground and they are starting to sprout. That reminds me of the thousands of bulbs (I can't remember if it is 30,000 or 40,000) that were planted around the fountain garden at the entrance to the Park. Make sure you head up there as the weather warms to enjoy every one of them. Thank the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy for doing this great project in our neighborhood. Spring bulbs get me looking forward to other flowers and trees blooming thru the rest of the year. You can never have too many flowers.

Speaking of things sprouting up, have you been past (well, not past it, but actually down) the 800 block of Mellon Street? The changes to the properties the HPCDC/ELDI is working on are looking good. The turreted houses are getting new wood shingles and paint (among other things) and are making a big change to the way the street looks. I recommend you walk, bike, run or drive past and take a look if you haven't already.

See you around the neighborhood.

### **Important Phone Numbers**

If you observe illegal activities at a business serving alcohol, please report these activities to the following offices. List is supplied by Joe Kramer from Sen. Jim Ferlo's office.

Pa. State Police, Nuisance Bar Task Force Charles J Rubino, Officer 412-548-2050 crubino@state.pa.us

Steve Sandrovich
Pa. Liquor Control Board
Bureau of Licensing Investigations
412-380-2602

Fran LaQuatra, Detective Office of the District Attorney 412-388-5305

Officer John McBurney City of Pittsburgh Police 412-478-6039

Lt. William Mathias Narcotics/Vice 412-323-7761

Councilman Leonard Bodack 412-255-2140 lbodack@city.pittsburgh.pa.us PAGE 2 FEBRUARY 2006

## HPCC Meeting Highlights January 19, 2006

Bob Staresinic

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Bob Staresinic,

President.

Treasurer's Report. Kelly Vitti reported that the checking account has a balance of \$30,000 and we have 3 CDs of \$3,400 each. The HPCC has once again been able to submit an application for funding from the PA DCED thru Rep Joe Preston's office. The money will be used for the Reservoir of Jazz and the mass mailing of the newsletter.

Yard Sale. This year's yard sale will fall on June 4th, the first Sunday in June. Kelly Meade reported that she has received feedback with the membership renewals that the date is not convenient, since it is a busy time at the end of the school year.

Public Safety. Two residents reported drug activity near the intersection of Stanton and Heberton, across the street from Dilworth School. They have reported it to the proper authorities, and have had some action on it, but the activity continues. The Principal at Dilworth has been very helpful and cooperative in this matter.

The recent emails about the change in ownership of Sandy's Deli were discussed. The deli is changing hands, so the liquor license is also. A group of residents would like to oppose the sale of the liquor license, since it is in a residential neighborhood. Joe Kramer from Sen. Jim Ferlo's office reported that Sen. Ferlo is opposed to liquor licenses in residential neighborhoods. Mr. Kramer brought a list of contact information for residents to report illegal activity when they observe it. Without proper reporting of offenses, there can be no action against a business. Mr. Kramer reported that there have been no reports of illegal activity to these offices against Sandy's Deli.

HP Working Group. Amy Maceyko reported on behalf of Rudy about the Park Working Group. The money that was given to the Babbling Brook project last year was used to improve the brook by student volunteers. There will be a Spring Volunteer Day on April 1st. Look for more info coming up.

Joe Kramer from Sen. Ferlo's office also announced a Veteran's Job Expo to connect veterans and current military personnel with possible employment and educational benefits at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial on Feb 15th. If you know of anyone who 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)

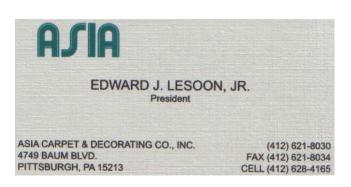
#### **Directors**

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 Meeting Minutes continued)

could benefit from this, let them know about it.

Patrick Dowd, PPS Board member, reported on the Pittsburgh Public Schools. He is halfway thru his term. The Board will be voting on the Right-sizing plan for the schools on Feb 28th. There is a hotline set up for residents to contact the PPS at 412-622-7920.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 16th. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

\*\*\*

a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

9:45 am Church School / Classes MidWeek Bible Study – Wed 10:30 am

## **Around St. Andrews**

Bruce Robison

Musical events at St. Andrew's in February include the monthly "First Thursday" service of Choral Evensong and Musical Recital on Thursday, February 2, at 8 p.m. The recitalist this month will be baritone Steve Lipnichan. On Sunday afternoon February 12 at 3 p.m. there will be a new program in the St. Andrew's Organ Lecture Series, and on Monday evening, February 20, at 7 p.m., an Organ Recital by noted European performer Bart Rodyns.

A new series on Centering Prayer, sponsored by Pittsburgh Contemplative Outreach, begins with a Saturday morning retreat and workshop on February 18, with program from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. On Sunday afternoon, February 19, at 4 p.m., Professor Richard Tobias of the University of Pittsburgh will present a lecture, "Jesus Haunting," on the figure and character of Jesus as interpreted by several poets of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

And we'll all mark our calendars now for the annual

#### PAGE 3

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Celebration on Tuesday, February 28, with food and festivities under way at 5:30 p.m.

St. Andrew's is located at 5801 Hampton Street, corner of Hampton and N. Euclid, and for a century "at the center" of our Highland Park neighborhood. If there are any pastoral needs we can be of assistance with -- a child to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor to visit, a family to support at the time of a death -- please feel free to give us a call. Our offices are open Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and our phone number is (412) 661-1245.

Kelly Meade
Associate Broker

5501 Baum Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
www.howardhanna.com

Office: (412) 361-4000
Cell: (412) 389-2175
Home: (412) 362-0331
E-Mail: kmeade@howardhanna.com

\*\*Real Estate Mortgago Title Insurance
#\*1 Real Estate Company in PA, OH, WV and NY

## THE WAY WE WERE...

Pat Miller

#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

How many of you are old enough and have lived here long enough to remember East Liberty before the ill-advised creation of Penn Circle in the late 1960s? Before that it was a much more vibrant community wasn't it? What can you do in East Liberty for entertainment these days? Alas, not much—no movie theaters and only a handful of really good restaurants. We do have Whole Foods and Home Depot but so few of us consider good produce, seafood and home improvement supplies "entertaining". Oh well. I guess that when it's scarce you take it where you find it.

But what were we like in the "good old days"? It was unbelievable by modern standards. We had Mansmann's Department Store, McCann's Market, hardware and other stores and a host of restaurants. But what we really had were movie theaters. In 1930 East Liberty had six movie theaters. One, the Enright at Penn and Highland, had an emcee named Dick Powell who was known as a "crooner". He

PAGE 4 FEBRUARY 2006

went on to become a big Hollywood star. The Enright also featured a kid who all agreed was a pretty good dancer. His name: Gene Kelly. Other theaters with less famous stars were the Bijou Dream Nickelodeon at 6021 Penn Ave., the Cameraphone at 6202 Penn Ave., the Liberty at 6237 Penn Ave. and the Regent at 5941 Penn Ave. Four theaters in three blocks! Hard to imagine today. But it wasn't just movies. We had vaudeville shows at the Hiland Theater at 200 S. Highland Ave. The Regent, which opened in 1914, is the only one that survives today but not as a movie theater.

How about this for all you Steelers fans: in 1890 East Liberty had its own football team! Games were played in a park and the annual attendance was between 10,000 and 15,000. In 1890 a merry-goround attracted large crowds on Baum Street. (In case you think that is a typographical error because we all know it is Baum Blvd. I invite you to look at the sign on the side of the Werner Bldg. at North Highland and Baum.) Silver Lake Grove, at what is now Washington Blvd., was a popular place for picnics, skating parties and dances. We didn't just entertain ourselves with movies, vaudeville, roller skating, football and dancing. We also had organized running meets, baseball, sleigh riding, and pigeon shooting.

Other organized entertainment came from club memberships. Popular in our area were the Ennui Camping Club, the East End Terpsichorean Club, the Euchre Club, and the Keystone Bicycle Club. We can all imagine what their areas of interest were. But what about these: the Teaspoon Club and the Ancient Order of Adhesive Mogulians?

Ah, those were indeed the glorious days of entertainment! Might at least some of them come back? We can only wait and see.

ACE LOCK

The Security People

Serving our community for over 20 years

Complete lock service

Safes

All types of keys made Foreign & Domestic Auto Access Control Systems Alarms, Intercoms, CCTV

Visit Our Showroom for 2 free keys (up to \$10) 5964 Baum Boulevard www.acelockinc.com

412-363-3328 - call for a free home lock evaluation

## **School Board Update**

Patrick Dowd

Five months ago, the Pittsburgh Board of Education established five goals to be accomplished in the first year of Superintendent Roosevelt's contract. Those goals are

- 1. To improve community relations with the Pittsburgh Public Schools
- To demonstrate leadership in the evaluation of the District's administration
- 3. To present the Board with a balanced budget for 2006
- To develop an educationally sound plan for right-sizing the District
- 5. To engage the community in the crafting of a Comprehensive Education Reform Agenda.

In June of 2006 the Board will meet to evaluate his performance, but already Superintendent Roosevelt is fast accumulating a record of success.

Superintendent Roosevelt is working tirelessly to engage the community. Since September Superintendent Roosevelt has attended or hosted over 50 community forums, radio and television shows, and neighborhood meetings. He has created a Parent Hotline (412.622.7920) to make his administration more responsive. He is working to rebuild relations with city, county and state government. The Superintendent has also worked with senior administrators to craft evaluations mechanisms for their work in the district. He is currently building an evaluation system for our principals. Additionally, recently hired Deputy Superintendent Lynn Spaminato has a three-year, performance-based contract similar Roosevelt's. Clearly the Superintendent is building community-oriented and performance-based culture in the administration of the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Last month Superintendent Roosevelt fulfilled the third goal when the Board passed unanimously his General Fund Budget for 2006. This budget, which again does not raise taxes, is \$533 million and represents an increase of \$3.5 million or only 0.6% over the 2005 General Fund Budget. This budget also includes more than \$14 million in cost cuts made to reduce the operating deficit of \$47 million. Unfortunately, our budget work is far from finished. In 2007, we face a daunting operating deficit of \$45-50 million. In order to close that gap, we must begin immediately to maximize reductions in 2006. Roosevelt Superintendent will launch comprehensive review of central office activity, office

HPCC NEWSLETTER PAGE 5

by office and position by position, along with all non-salary activity.

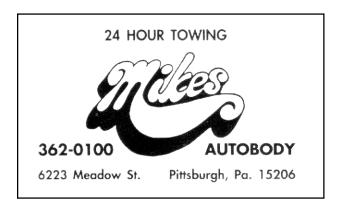
The Right-Sizing Plan, which was announced on November 9<sup>th</sup> and which is the fourth performance priority, is anticipated to save \$9.7 million annually. More importantly, this plan is designed to enhance the delivery of educational services and is the first step towards academic recovery. The District is currently in the second year of School Improvement and faces a possible state takeover in September 2006 for not meeting No Child Left Behind academic standards. As part of this plan, Dr. Spaminato will provide the Board and the public with even clearer picture of the operations of the proposed Accelerated Learning Academies. Additionally, a task force is forming to look at the delivery of Gifted and Talented programming in the District.

At the end of January, 2006 Superintendent Roosevelt will launch his Campaign for Proficiency. The Superintendent has invited Dr. Jeff Howard of the Efficacy Institute to come to Pittsburgh to present a framework for developing a citywide campaign. The goal will be to mobilize adult leadership across Pittsburgh to move all of our students to Proficiency and beyond. The campaign acknowledges that we can no longer place all the responsibility for our children's education on the schools alone. As a community we — schools, churches, synagogues, businesses, social services, professionals, media, elected officials as well as neighborhood and cultural groups — will need to rally behind all of our children to achieve this goal.

Finally, I would like to point out that I have just passed the half-way point in this term on the Pittsburgh Board of Education. During our 2003 campaign I made three promises: to make improving academic achievement the Board and District's highest priority; to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars and to work cooperatively with the administration while holding the Superintendent accountable for the academic and financial performance of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Those promises are now bound up in goals of Superintendent Roosevelt's contract and are now being fulfilled through his work.

As always, but especially after having passed the halfway mark of this term, I welcome your comments. Please do not hesitate to write or to share your comments at public hearings. I can be reached through my email <a href="mailto:patrick@patrickdowd.org">patrick@patrickdowd.org</a> or by regular mail at 341 South Bellefield Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15206

\*\*\*\*





## **Bayernhof Museum**

Tony Marsico, Curator

You may have noticed the two big houses that sit up on the hill as you cross the Highland Park bridge going towards Rt. 28. The big gray one that looks like a country club is the home of Dr. Costa, a urologist and transplant surgeon. The other home to the right of that house and highest on the hill is now the non-profit Bayernhof Museum. It is the former residence of Mr. Charles B. Brown III a native of Aspinwall who started Gaslite Manufacturing in Lawrenceville in 1965. Mr. Brown named the house Bayernhof after the city in Germany where his great grandfather, John Schneider Loresh was born. Mr. Loresh immigrated from Germany in the late 1800's and was a founding member of Allegheny Valley Bank, Mr. Brown embraced his German ancestry: not only naming the foundation that is trustee for the house for his great grandfather but building and decorating his house to look like an old German manor. It is beautiful inside and is unique in the fact that it has 3 secret passages accessed by hidden doors, one of them leading to a "cave" housing a wine cellar. There is a 5 foot deep, 15,000 gallon

PAGE 6 FEBRUARY 2006

swimming pool with a stone bridge and a Jacuzzi in a cozy corner of the room. The house has 22 rooms. 6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, 3 half baths, 11 bars, 3 kitchens and 10 fireplaces. But the really unique part of this house is it's collection of automatic musical instruments. Mr. Brown started amassing his collection in the 1990's and it contains not only many antique music boxes of the disc and cylinder type, but an amazing player violin machine called a Mills Violano Virtuoso, a Seeburg Pipe Organ orchestra which was used to accompany silent films, a Knabe Ampico reproducing piano that faithfully reproduces the playing via rolls of great pianists like Gershwin and Rachmaninoff, a 1908 nickel operated player banjo as well as merry go round organs and other interesting automatic music machines.

This house tour is not only "interesting" but it is probably the most fun house tour in the city of Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. The house was under a careful renovation on the inside for almost two years. Pictures were taken of the way Mr. Brown had decorated the rooms, the rooms were "gutted", painting, wallpaper and moldings renewed or replaced, rugs replaced with commercial grade carpet in the original colors, and furniture and decorative objects replaced by referencing the photographs. All of this cost about as much as a very nice house might cost.

I was named Curator in April of 2004 and we opened officially for tours in July of 2004. The intervening years between 1999 and 2004 were spent not only renovating and doing maintenance on the house, but negotiating the zoning variance with the neighbors in the residential neighborhood where the house is located. I think we have allayed most of their fears and I want to make them proud that we are there. We have raised \$27,500 for Cystic fibrosis by participating in Auctions in which we donated the dining room for a catered dinner for up to 12 people, and took the diners on a tour of the house. We have also raised \$6000 for the Heart Association in the same manner.

The Bayernhof Museum is open to the public by appointment only, and is a guided tour. We have had over 1,000 visitors this past year, in groups of anywhere from 2 to 12 people at a time. 12 at a time is our maximum but if you had a group that numbered more than that, you could split the group into two sections. One to come in the morning, everyone meeting for lunch at one of the restaurants in Sharpsburg or Aspinwall, with the second group coming out after lunch. The tours last from 2 to 2 1/2 hours and costs \$10 a person. We can do a tour 7 days a week, and my suggested times are 10:30am and 2:30pm but you'll find that I am very flexible with the time. I am a live in curator and am at the house

ninety five percent of the time, but there is an answering machine on the phone and I will be happy to return your call. Please allow 5 rings of the phone. In spite of 26 telephones in the house it is difficult to reach any in 3 rings. Printed brochures are available at the Tazza D'Oro coffee shop on Highland Avenue or you can visit us on the web at www.bayernhofmuseum.com

So give us a call and come visit. I know you'll have fun because you've never seen a house like this.

\*\*\*\*

Υ

#### Now Accepting applications for Fall Enrollment

ursery Sch

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Small classes
- •
- Transport

r mo e t all Dr. Carole L. Taylor,

## **Union Project Update**

Justin Rothshank

Union Project receives first Federal Grant

The Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a \$700,000 discretionary grant for community development to the Union Project. The grant supports the Union Project's efforts as an arts and enterprise incubator. Funds will be used to complete the construction on Union Station – a social enterprise café partnership with Peabody High School's Culinary Arts Academy. This construction will mark the completion of Phase I of the Proiect's capital renovation Union campaign. Funds will also be used to assist Union Project partners and projects in their community development efforts and are tied to a goal of 101 jobs to be created over a period of three years among Union Project tenants, partners and projects. At least 60% of jobs created will be filled with low-income individuals.

HPCC NEWSLETTER

In addition to Union Station, the Union Project aims to launch at least two additional social enterprise endeavors this year; a production pottery to employ high school youth and a stained glass restoration company.

Social enterprise is any earned-income business or strategy undertaken by a nonprofit to generate revenue in support of its charitable mission. "Social enterprise and entrepreneurship has been a hallmark of the Union Project through our stained glass classes, volunteer learning experiences, summer market, and more," says Executive Director Jessica King. "We are thrilled that this grant provides the resources for us to implement a vision that will create new opportunities for our neighbors in need. In a time of decreasing grants and public subsidy, maximizing our income-earning potential is essential to create self-sustaining, long-term, positive change."

Additional grants recently received toward the Capital Campaign include: \$1,000 from the Stuckeman Charitable Trust, \$5,000 from the H.J. Heinz Company Foundation, \$10,000 from the Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation, and \$20,000 from the Allegheny Foundation.

Founded four years ago by young Pittsburghers, the grassroots Union Project has raised some \$3 million to renovate the formerly abandoned Union Baptist Church and start new community and economic development programs, engaged over 1,600 volunteers in innovative hands-on restoration work, and opened renovated space to house the offices and studios of nine community organizations, entrepreneurs, artists and people of faith. A boardroom and two large halls are available to rent for short or long term use. A cooperative ceramics art studio is in development and will be accepting applications and membership in 2006.

Phase II of the capital renovation project will commence in 2006 and will raise the funds necessary to renovate the former sanctuary into a civic gathering space for weddings, arts performances, religious assembly and public gatherings.

PAGE 7

In the world of Real Estate, I
STAND OUT FROM THE
CROWD ...

SO DO MY LISTINGS.



Easy Contact, Anytime. 412-720-0907

Dana838@vzw.blackberrv.net

Highland Park Resident.

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

Current Beautification Chairperson

(Photo Courtesy of Mara Rago)



PAGE 8 FEBRUARY 2006

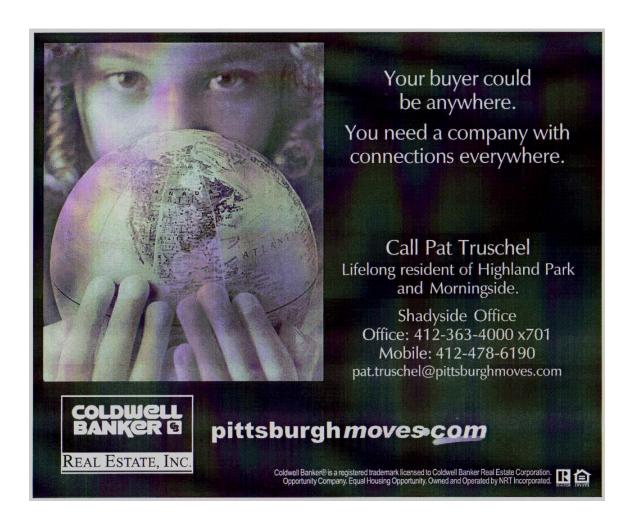
## Become an Active Participant in Maintaining and Improving the Appearance of Our Neighborhood!

\* Currently Needing Assistance With: \*

- The Shade Tree Commission Collaboration-- Bryant St. Beautification Plan-- Garden Plot Spring Maintenance –

Please contact H.P.C.C. Beautification Chair, Dana Thomas today! \* Creative

DanaThomas@PrudentialPreferred.com 412.720.0907



HPCC NEWSLETTER PAGE 9

**Daniel J. Landis**Sales Associate
"I Make House Calls!"



## **Preferred Realty**

5801 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Bus 412 521-5500 Res 412 421-5138 Fax 412 521-4854 Pager 412 380-8490 E-mail danlandis@prudentialpreferred.com



♠ An independently owned and operated member of The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

## Pia Colucci REALTOR® pcolucci@prudentialpreferred.com



## **Preferred Realty**

5801 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Office 412 521-5500 x210 Hm 412 681-4110 Cell 412 600-7316



♠ An independently owned and operated member of The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.



Highland Park Community Club, Inc.

> P.O. Box 5036 Pittsburgh, PA 15206

**Return Service Requested** 

**TIME VALUE** 

Feb 16 HPCC Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, St. Andrews

Feb 16 HPCC Newsletter Articles Due! Send to editor@highlandparkpa.com

Feb 20 Organ Recital by Bart Rodyns, 7 pm, St. Andrews

Feb 28 Katrina Relief Benefit, Mardi Gras Celebration, 6 pm, Hosted at ELPC, Details inside

Feb 28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Celebration, 5:30 p.m, St. Andrews

Presorted Standard
U S Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2581