

# Community Council Newsletter for



*Edited by Lisa Williams, [editor@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:editor@highlandparkpa.com)*

## The President's Column

*Bob Staresinic, 412-441-8972, [bob.63@netzero.net](mailto:bob.63@netzero.net)*

Although I have mentioned this in the past, the houses on the 800 block of Mellon Street are looking good. There was an open house recently, and I walked thru 815 Mellon. It is looking good, although they are still working on it. From what I understand, 817 and 807 have already been sold. That leaves 815 and 813 still up for grabs, so you better hurry. You really should stop and look at the detail work they are doing on the exterior, where they are replacing what was originally there.

For those of you unfortunate enough to hear me on my soapbox about destroying old stuff, this will sound familiar. I just love when things are put back the way they were, and I hate when things are destroyed just because they are old. I just picked up a rotary phone, cleaned it up and put it into service. I was recently rooting around in the dumpster in front of the Union Project, finding stuff I don't have room for but that should not have been thrown away. My brother ended up with a nice sturdy workbench for his basement.

Along the same lines, I would hate to see the Civic Arena torn down (yes, it is the Civic Arena, not Mellon Arena). Just because the Penguins messed up the ability to open the roof so they could make more money, and now they need some other building so they can make more money, I don't think we should destroy the Arena. It should be fixed so that the roof opens and then we will have a great building that might even be something to see when folks visit Pittsburgh. My roof doesn't fully open anymore either, but I think I still have some life left.

It seems to me that Pittsburgh is going to be famous for all the buildings we tore down or renovated to remove the details. We already have that great Rick Sebak special of things that aren't here anymore. "Pittsburgh--We're All Brand New"

If you have stuff that you are not using, please find someone who sees value where others don't. Construction Junction will take a lot of your old house parts if you see a need to "update". There are plenty of folks who will benefit from your old stuff, and at least at Construction Junction you can claim a tax deduction. There are web sites where you can offer your stuff to others, or you can use the email list at [highlandparkpa.com](http://highlandparkpa.com).

That is all for now. Make sure you take the time to walk around the neighborhood as the days get longer and the flowers and trees start to sprout.

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### **MARCH HPCC MEETING** **Thursday, March 16, 7:30 PM** **Featured Program**

The March meeting will feature a program by East Liberty Development Corp (ELDI). What is happening in East Liberty? Lots! And it is good news for you and other surrounding neighborhoods. Come hear about over ten projects with a value exceeding \$70 million, including over 275 new units of residential housing.

**THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006, AT ST. ANDREWS**

## HPCC Meeting Highlights

### February 16, 2006

Kate Carrigan

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President Bob Staresinic.

There was no Treasurer's report.

*Public Safety*--Jan Stayianos reported that things have been pretty good in the neighborhood. The new commander at Zone 5 will be invited to a meeting to introduce herself. A tour of the 911 center is being planned.

*Highland Park Working Group*--Rudy Maceyko reported that there will be a clean up in the Park on Saturday, April 1st, from 9 am to 12 noon. Volunteers are needed. Typically, Highland Park gets fewer volunteers than the other parks. There is some new trail development in the Park, and the Walks in the Woods are continuing. There has been some erosion of the trails due to water. Specifically, there is a leaking valve near the intersection of Reservoir Drive and Grafton that is causing erosion of the hillside below that. The Water and Sewer Authority needs to address this.

*Children's Committee*--Rachel Matos reported that planning has started for the Spring Party in the Park. Look for details for this event taking place in April.

PA Rep Joe Preston Jr spoke about the current issues in the State, including gaming, property taxes and schools. A question was raised about the voting machines.

Patrick Dowd, Pgh School Board member, and Michael Johnson spoke about the right-sizing plan and the background on the decisions made. Michael is active on a committee that is advising Mark Roosevelt on education and the City schools. With the proposed closing of Reizenstein Middle School, Fulton students will be going to Arsenal Middle School. Fulton will be picking up the French magnet from East Hills School, which will be closing. Mr. Roosevelt has been receptive to feedback from the community. There are plans to have Mr. Roosevelt speak at the Union Project in March.

## H. P. C. C.

### Officers, Directors & Committees

#### Officers

President: Bob Staresinic (441-8972)  
Vice President: Dell Ziegler (363-0742)  
Treasurer: Kelly Vitti (361-7669)  
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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](mailto: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; Brigitte 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

#### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**C. O. P. 665-3644 - Zone 5 665-3605**  
Pa. State Police, Nuisance bar Task Force, 412-548-2050  
Pa. Liquor Control Board, 412-380-2602  
Fran LaQuatra, Detective, 412-388-5305  
Officer John McBurney, Pittsburgh Police, 412-478-6039  
Lt. William Mathias, Narcotics/Vice, 412-323-7761  
Councilman Len Bodack, 412-255-2140

HPCC/HPCDC Web: [www.highlandparkpa.com](http://www.highlandparkpa.com)  
Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted

*(HPCC Meeting Minutes continued)*

**Beautification**--Dana Thomas introduced Diana Ames from the Pgh Shade Tree Commission. Ms Ames gave a presentation of how the Commission came to be and what they are working towards.

Currently there are 31,000 street trees in Pgh. There are about 900 that are in need of pruning and maintenance (or removal) before they cause harm to people or property. The commission is trying to get volunteers to be "tree tenders", who would be trained in maintenance of the street trees. A complete survey was completed that took inventory of every street tree in the City, and it is available online.

**House Tour**-- Amy Maceyko reported that there may be a scaled-down house tour later this year. All the House Tour committees from the various neighborhoods are working together to coordinate when tours are scheduled and to assist in cross-promotion of the tours.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

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### **St. Andrew's Church**

5801 Hampton Street \* Highland Park

#### **Sunday Morning Services – March**

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

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## **Around St. Andrews**

*Bruce Robison*

"Music at St. Andrew's" in March will include a recital with renowned cellist Paula Tuttle on Thursday evening, March 2, immediately following the 8 p.m. service of Choral Evensong. Ms. Tuttle will be playing the Suite #3 in C major by J.S. Bach.

Organ recitals in March will include, on Sunday evening, March 5, at 7 p.m., the Pittsburgh debut of

Johan Hermans, Organist of the Cavaille-Coll organ at Sacred Heart Church and City Organist of Hasselt, Belgium (suggested admission, \$10, \$5 students); and a continuation of the St. Andrew's Organ Lecture and Performance series on Sunday afternoon, March 12, with Lecture at 3 p.m. and Recital at 4 p.m.

The Tuesday Music Club will have a musical program and reception beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, and the Pittsburgh Camerata will be in concert at St. Andrew's this month as well, on Saturday evening, March 25th, at 8 p.m. (tickets at the door or by subscription). See the article elsewhere in this HPCC Newsletter for more information.

The 2005-2006 "Focus on Jesus" series continues with a Film Night on Saturday evening, March 18, at 6:45 p.m. (note earlier hour), with a showing of the 1988 "Last Temptation of Christ." The film, director Martin Scorsese's adaptation of the famous novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, is rated "R," and so those under 17 may attend only with a parent or adult guardian. We're all invited to bring refreshments to share.

St. Andrew's, at the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue, has been a part of this Highland Park neighborhood for nearly a century. If there are pastoral needs we can assist with (a baby to baptize, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor to visit, a family to comfort at the time of a death)--or if we can simply provide a few folding chairs or tables, or a "rainy day" location for a family picnic or other event--please know that we welcome your call to our Church Office, 412 661-1245.

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## THE WAY WE WERE...

Pat Miller

Dear HPCC Members,

I have been writing our history column "The Way We Were" since December 2004. I love writing it and, from the feedback I get, I think many of you enjoy it. Now I need your help.

I'm just a green newcomer having moved to Pittsburgh in 1967 and Highland Park in 1985. Some of you who are older and have lived here longer have precious information about our history which needs to be shared with a larger audience and I am asking you to help me do that.

Give me your ideas. Share your memories, old family pictures, and any other memorabilia you might have. For example, did you help integrate the Highland Park pool in 1951 or watch a tank go down North Highland Ave. in the big snow storm of November 1950? Do you know for whom Wellesley Ave. is really named? Do you know other historic information that I as a newcomer don't even know to ask about? If so, I would like to talk to you. Perhaps we could meet over a cup of coffee at Tazza D'Oro.

To arrange a meeting please contact me by sending an e-mail to [editor@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:editor@highlandparkpa.com) or leaving a message at 412-665-3933. I look forward to hearing from you. You can help keep our history alive.

\*\*\*\*



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## HPCC Beautification

Dana Thomas

Thank you to everyone who showed up to February's HPCC meeting to listen to Diana Ames' presentation, "Pittsburgh's Shade Trees: An Asset Worth Protecting". The Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission, which is chaired by Ms. Ames, is a

valuable resource to our city and I am looking forward to the organization's assistance in improving and maintaining Highland Park's shade tree inventory. This tree inventory was a focus for city-planners in the 1950's and 1960's to help attract residents and reduce crime. It is, unfortunately, slowly diminishing with no replanting efforts.

If you were unable to make it to the meeting, Diana provided us with valuable information on the benefits of appropriate shade trees in our city neighborhoods and the challenges involved with promoting and protecting our tree-lined streets. Many of our trees are in danger of being "hacked" in an unattractive and unhealthy manner or, worse yet, being cut down completely. Many others are near the end of their life span due to poor maintenance and pose a danger to people and property. In some instances, residents are planting the wrong trees in the wrong places and this is not helping the situation. In addition, Pittsburgh has an understaffed Forestry Division with out-dated machinery. As hard as they try, are incapable of keeping up with all that needs done.

This is where caring community members need to step up to the plate. The Shade Tree Commission sponsors free 2-hour training sessions designed to certify residents as official "Tree Tenders". As a Tree Tender, you will know the proper tree-maintenance techniques for trees on your own property and throughout our neighborhood. Hopefully, our neighborhood will show enough interest in this project to have a training session held in Highland Park this spring.

There is much revitalization occurring in our neighborhood. By adding trees to the streets that are still in need of caring property owners, we will be taking one more step in the right direction for the future of Highland Park. Many of our streets have entire blocks that have had their street-tree inventory practically wiped out or have trees that are posing a dangerous threat due to being in a weakened state. Not only do we need to put trees back in Highland Park, it is very important - for reasons that many residents are eager to point out - that we move forward in an organized and educated manner to ensure the most appropriate trees are planted in the most appropriate places.

If you would be willing to volunteer some of your time toward this important issue, please notify me, Dana Thomas, Highland Park Community Council Beautification Chair, at 412-720-0907 or e-mail [Dana838@vzw.Blackberry.Net](mailto:Dana838@vzw.Blackberry.Net). I would like to culminate a list of neighborhood volunteers by mid-April so that we can move forward with organizing a training session in our own neighborhood this spring.



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## Highland Park Clean Up Day

Rudy Maceyko

### Volunteers Needed

Come to the park on April 1st from 9:00 am to noon to help remove garbage and invasive plant species. There are opportunities for everyone--including kids--to help improve the park.

Volunteers will have opportunities to remove garlic mustard from certain areas in the park. Garlic mustard is one of the many invasive plant species that are crowding out native species in the park and it is remarkably easy (and fun!) to remove.

We'll be meeting at 9:00 am at the Pool Grove shelter. Dress appropriately for the weather and the chance that you'll be getting your hands (at least!) dirty.

Dennis Meyer, coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh's "Partners in Parks" program, is still

looking for volunteers to help clean up the lower portion of the park near Butler Street and One Wild Place. This is a chance to clean up a part of the park that is visible from the bridge and the area near the Zoo parking lot.

Historically, Highland Park has had the fewest volunteers for this program, so let's make history by turning out in large numbers. Please let Dennis know if you're interested in helping:

Dennis Meyer, Park Partners Coordinator  
City of Pittsburgh/DPW, Partners in Parks

[Dennis.Meyer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us](mailto:Dennis.Meyer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us)  
412-255-2676

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Executive Director, at 412-361-7733

## Pittsburgh Camerata

Gail Luley

The Pittsburgh Camerata will premiere "Sacred Songs & Interludes," a new choral work by Nancy Galbraith at **St Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton St., Highland Park** on **Saturday, March 25 at 8:00 PM**. Renowned Pittsburgh composer Nancy Galbraith has written a major work scored for choir, mezzo-soprano, baritone, flutes, percussion and keyboard celebrating the rich diversity of musical prayer. "Sacred Songs & Interludes" sets to music texts borrowed from the poetry and canonical

(Pittsburgh Camerata continued)

literature of the world's seven principal religions—Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Taoism. The 24 voice professional chamber choir will also sing "Der Gerechte kommt um" ("Now the Righteous are Lost"), a motet recently attributed to J.S Bach, and "Magnificat" by Francesco Cavalli.

**Tickets are \$15 and \$6 for students. 412-421-5884.** For more information and a concert program listing, visit the Camerata's website at [www.pittsburghcamerata.org](http://www.pittsburghcamerata.org)

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## Yard Sale

Judy Wolfe

**Sunday June 4, 2006/Sunday June 4, 2006/Sunday June 4, 2006/Sunday June 4, 2006/Sunday June 4, 2006/Sunday June 4, 2006/Sunday June 4, 2006/Su**  
**HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE/HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE/HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE/HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE**

As you might have guessed, (wait for it now) the GREAT HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE will be on SUNDAY JUNE 4, 2006 from 9:00 until we want to pack it up. And for those of you who are new to the neighborhood (or have been living under a rock in the park) here is how it goes.

For a mere \$12, you get to sell the items which have been accumulating in your home (and causing a fire hazard) for the past gazillion years, at what is arguably the most popular event of its kind in the East End. You give us a list of the items you want to sell (see the form below) and we provide you with all the advertising, signs and balloons. We type and distribute (with the help of our dedicated volunteers) the huge list of locations and items for sale - to the hundreds, and this is no exaggeration, of people who come to our famous Yard Sale each year.

We wish that we could wait for the snow to melt in the park before we had to get moving on this but - no rest for the weary. Kelly Vitti and I thought that you hard core Yard Sellers might need some advanced notice so that the cleaning and organizing might begin. So go to it.

Please send the following information to: **Judy Wolfe, 5910 Wellesley Avenue, Pgh 15206 ON OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2006**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEMS FOR SALE\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*please note: general categories of items (household, children's clothing, etc.) are best, but if you have something special please feel free to list them.

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### MARCH 2006 CALENDAR

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| March 16 | <b>HPCC Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, St. Andrews</b>  |
| March 16 | HPCC Newsletter Articles Due! Send to <a href="mailto:editor@highlandparkpa.com">editor@highlandparkpa.com</a> |
| March 25 | Pittsburgh Camerata, Saturday, March 25, 8 pm, St. Andrews, Details inside                                     |
| April 1  | Highland Park Clean Up Day, 9 am, Details inside   |
| June 4   | HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE  |