

Community Council Newsletter for



Edited by Lisa Williams, editor@highlandparkpa.com

The President's Column

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

Spring is here. I have both yellow and purple crocuses blooming in my yard, and I am sure that the daffodils will be almost ready when this newsletter arrives. Although it was cold, I started pulling weeds from the flower beds. Now is a good time to get them, before they get established and start to take over. It was good to get my hands in the dirt again.

With the arrival of spring comes Street Cleaning! Check the signs on your street to remind yourself when they are scheduled to clean. Street Cleaning runs from April thru November, so get in the habit of moving your car before they start ticketing. I hope the City is going to continue with this. Even though they don't get the streets real clean, it is a bit of a help.

I prefer to sweep the street myself, since it looks so good when there is no trash, leaves or branches getting run over. Even after they do Street Cleaning, I like to go out and sweep up everything they missed or just spread around. The streets and sidewalks look so much better when they are swept. I found that I can sweep my street (just in front of my house and 2 neighbors) in about 15 minutes, and what a difference. Just another excuse to get outside and talk to my neighbors.

I don't have much else to talk about, but if you have something you want to discuss, please feel free to let me know. If you bring a broom, we could have a long conversation and beautify the neighborhood at the same time.

See you around the neighborhood.

**Highland Park Annual
Spring Party and Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 8
12:30pm – 2:30 pm
Farmhouse Playground**

To volunteer or for more information contact
Rachel Matos 412-361-3802



**HPCC Meeting Highlights
March 16, 2006
No Meeting Minutes**

**ATTN: May Newsletter
Is the Mass Mailing**

**Articles and Ads must be in by April 20
Send to editor@highlandparkpa.com**

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2006, AT ST. ANDREWS

Around St. Andrews

Bruce Robison

Our good friend and Highland Park neighbor Dr. Charles H. Heaton, retired Organist and Choir Master of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, will be in recital at St. Andrew's on Thursday evening, April 6, following the 8 p.m. service of Choral Evensong. All are invited, and a social reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

Also on the musical map for April at St. Andrew's will be our traditional program for the Third Hour of the Great Three Hours service on Good Friday, April 14, when from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. the St. Andrew's Choir and the Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Melissa McBride, will present a selection of music selected for the day, centering on the "Crucifixus" section of the Mass in B minor by J.S. Bach.

Easter Sunday morning is also a musical highlight of the year, with Choir, Organ, and Festival Brass at the 11 a.m. service. And looking ahead, in the third week of Eastertide, the service of Choral Evensong on Thursday evening, May 4, at 8 p.m., will be followed by a performance by the Pittsburgh Choral Ensemble, the "Balkan Babes."

Neighborhood families with younger children are reminded that all are invited to join in the fun of Easter Egg-dying on Holy Saturday, April 15th, from 10:30 a.m. - Noon, in the St. Andrew's Parish Hall Kitchen. (Kids, please bring your parents to help!) We're encouraged to bring a dozen hard-boiled eggs to take home with us after decoration--and a second dozen to contribute to the great Easter Egg Hunt that follows the 11 a.m. Easter Morning service . . . during our festive Champagne Easter Morning Reception and Coffee Hour.

St. Andrew's, on the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue, is just now crossing the century mark in our life here at the heart of the Highland Park neighborhood. If there are ways that we can be of pastoral assistance--if there is a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in neighbor or family member to be visited, a family to comfort at the time of a death--please do give our Church Office a call. Or perhaps you simply need to borrow a few chairs or to schedule a "rainy day" location for a family picnic. Again, we hope we can be of assistance. Our office is open Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and our phone number is 412 661-1245.

H. P. C. C.

Officers, Directors & Committees

Officers

President: Bob Staresinic (441-8972)
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Secretary: Amy Enrico (889-6105)

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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
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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
Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted**

School Board Update

Patrick Dowd

Over the last two months, the Pittsburgh Board of Education has approved action that will move the school district closer to our long-term goals of improved student achievement, safer schools and increased fiscal responsibility. In February, the Board put to rest the decade-old question of excess capacity in schools by voting to approve Superintendent Roosevelt's Right-Sizing Plan. In that same vote, we approved some of the most significant education reforms our school system has seen in over a decade. In other actions, the Board began a partnership with the City to build safer schools and took a unified stand regarding contract negotiations with our teachers. This month, the Board and Superintendent Roosevelt are working to build consensus around a comprehensive Education Reform Agenda.

On the last day of February, the Board cut the Gordian Knot on the decade-long problem of excess capacity in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. The approval of the Superintendent's Right-Sizing Plan closes 22 schools and simultaneously begins the process of reforming education. The most important part of the plan calls for the creation of eight Accelerated Learning Academies in Squirrel Hill, Homewood and other parts of our city. These are newly modeled schools with longer days and principals on performance-based contracts. They are a powerful first step for academic reform. The plan also calls for the addition of 5 Early Childhood Education Centers across the city. These centers along with our already existing classrooms will serve and educate more than 2,300 three- and four-year olds. No other district in this region is making that kind of progress on early childhood education. Overall, the plan calls for the allocation resources to students and education, not to empty seats. A copy of the Right-Sizing Plan is available on my website www.patrickdowd.org.

Safety remains Job #1 for the Pittsburgh Public Schools and last month we took significant steps to improve the safety of our schools. Superintendent Roosevelt and Mayor O'Connor launched a partnership called "Safety-Zone Partnership: Pittsburgh Puts Kids First." Together they will bring the resources of the City and of the schools to serve their common constituents – the students and citizens of Pittsburgh. Specifically, the partnership will create a 1,000-foot radius around each of our schools. Within that radius the City and the schools will target abandoned cars, hazardous properties and criminal activities that make schools and neighborhoods unsafe. Our new Superintendent and Mayor are committed to working together and they evidenced that after a recent incident near Westinghouse. Both these leaders understand that safety is a citywide project.

As many of you may know, our nearly 3,000 teachers are working without a contract. We know that teachers are professionals entrusted with our children and should be well compensated. At the same time, however, we know must reform our school system. The recent fact finder's report, given to the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) and the Board, did not help us in our reform efforts.

That report, which is available on my website www.patrickdowd.org, stated clearly that next year the district would face a budget deficit of at least \$12 million. The report made plain that 60% of the teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools are at the highest step on the salary scale and that our teachers are well-paid, especially relative to their peers in Pennsylvania and across the country. Furthermore, the report called for a 7.96% pay increase over 18 months, costing the district more than \$14 million. However, the report failed to take into consideration the No Child Left Behind Act and the very real possibility of state take-over in 2006. The report did not acknowledge the Board's genuine desire or need to reform education. For example, the report made no serious statement regarding concessions for those teaching in the newly constituted Accelerated Learning Academies. For all these reasons and more, I voted to reject this report and to begin again negotiating with our teacher. Like me, our teachers want to find a resolution to this impasse and I am confident that we will.

As I write, Superintendent Roosevelt is diligently working with his administration and the Board to finalize a comprehensive Education Reform Agenda. A recently released curriculum audit by the Council of Great City Schools reveals the long-overdue need for this reform. The audit (the preliminary report is available on my website www.patrickdowd.org) confirms some of what has troubled me since taking office. The auditors concluded that in the past the district administration generally lacked a sense of urgency around the need to improve education and that in the past there was "a general sense that the district educates its best students very well, but has lower expectations for other students." Additionally, the auditors reported that in the past the district administration set goals based upon the No Child Left Behind minimum expectations and was not motivated to aim higher than that floor. The auditors told us that our curriculum is fragmented at best and that there has been an obvious absence of consistent and effective evaluation of instructional initiatives. These findings are very serious and buttress the calls to reform of our curriculum, our instruction, our assessments, and our overall accountability.

These are exciting times for the Pittsburgh Public Schools. The public debate and discourse over the Right-Sizing Plan is behind us and the real work is just ahead. Contract negotiations, curriculum reform and

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*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.

HOLY WEEK



Worship Services at East Liberty Presbyterian Church

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9

- 8 am Good Samaritan service of music, prayer, personal witness.
 9 am Morning Glory service with music of praise, MoGlo Singers.
 11 am Palm Sunday service with brass quartet and Festival Choir preceded by a procession with the waving of palms.
 7 pm "Koinonia" Service of Praise.

April 10 Monday, "The Storm Clouds Begin to Gather"

7 pm Service of meditation and music.

April 11 Tuesday, "When Life Begins to Tumble In"

7 pm Service of meditation and music.

April 12 Wednesday, Taizé Prayer

7 pm Candlelight service with music, prayer and meditation.

April 13 Maundy Thursday, "No Turning Back Now"

7 pm Service of meditation, music and Holy Communion.

April 14 Good Friday, "The Crucifixion"

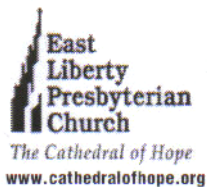
12 noon Service of quietness and personal meditation.
 7 pm Service of Tenebrae, with choir and soloists.

April 15 Holy Saturday, "Great Vigil of Easter"

7 pm Service with singing of hymns and Holy Communion.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

- 8 am Early Service.
 11 am Easter Celebration service with brass quartet, Festival Choir and Easter message. Music begins at 10:45 am.



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Union Project

Justin Rothshank

April's First Friday at the Union Project Happy Hours at the Union Project are always a great idea, but in April it is a fabulous idea. The Union Project staff will all be there to answer your questions about how you can get involved with what we are doing in our building and in the community. You may think you know, but you have no idea how much is brewing over here! You'll also be able to view the Open Door's "Stations of the Cross" art exhibit in the Great Hall. Join us April 7 from 6-8 pm for music, food, drinks and fan fare that is sure to strike your fancy! Email hilary@unionproject.org for more information.

See The Temptations, Support the Union Project On Thursday, June 15, 2006 at 8PM, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will host its 3rd Annual Community Partners Concert with guest stars The Temptations and chairperson, Max Starks! A portion of ticket sales from this incredible night goes directly to the Union Project!! The PSO donates the orchestra services, and secures corporate sponsors to underwrite out of pocket costs associated with guest artist services and concert production. Buy your tickets before March 26th and you will receive the pre-sale rate. Tickets will be on sale until June 1st. Please call to buy your tickets and earmark them for the Union Project by calling 412-392-4833.

Tuesday Musical Club

Call 412-682-0439 or www.tuesdaysmusicalclub.org

Spring Concert

Choral and String Ensembles

Pianist Yeeha Chiu

Tuesday, April 11

12:30 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Saturday Recital

Jonathan Aldrich and Becky Billock performs:

Cesar Franck's Sonata for Violin and Piano

Saturday, April 22

2:00 PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE WAY WE WERE

Pat Miller

Please remember to send in your ideas for future columns. To set up a meeting, call 412-665-3933 and leave a message or send an e-mail to editor@highlandparkpa.com.

Tai Chi Classes

Susy Robison

Spring is here and with it comes weekly Tai Chi classes at St. Andrew's in Highland Park starting Monday evening April 10th. The Second Level classes will be from 6:30 – 8:00 PM and the Basic Level class will follow from 8:00 – 9:15 PM.

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 is 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.

These 10-week Tai Chi classes will be held Mondays April 10th to June 19th. There will be no classes Monday evening May 29th. The fee for each 10-week course is \$55.00 per person. Or, bring a friend for \$100. Classes will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton Street in Highland Park.

To register for Basic or Second Level classes or for more information please call Judy at 412-363-2748.

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DON'T MISS

The Annual Highland Park Spring Party and Egg Hunt!

Saturday April 8

12:30pm --2:30pm

AT THE FARMHOUSE PLAYGROUND

For more information or to volunteer please contact:

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APRIL 2006 CALENDAR

April 1	Highland Park Clean Up Day, 9 am, Details inside
April 7	Union Project First Friday in April, 6 – 8pm, details inside
April 8	Annual Highland Park Spring Party and Egg Hunt, 12:30 pm at the Farmhouse
April 11	Tuesday Musical Club Spring Concert, 12:30 pm, St. Andrews
April 20	Highland Park Community Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, St. Andrews
April 20	Newsletter Articles Due for May Newsletter! Remember: MAY IS THE MASS MAILING
April 22	Tuesday Musical Club Saturday Recital, 2pm, St. Andrews
June 4	HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE