

Community Council Newsletter for



Edited by Lisa Williams, editor@highlandparkpa.com

The President's Column

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

Every year the HPCC sends out one issue to all residents of Highland Park. Many individuals and local groups have been busy over the past year with many hours of volunteering to keep Highland Park the best neighborhood in the City. There is always something going on in our neighborhood (and the surrounding neighborhoods) that you can get involved in and benefit from.

The upcoming events in Highland Park include the Yard Sale on June 4th. The streets will be packed and there will be bargains to be found.

The Day Camp will be running again this summer, so get your kids ready.

In August, the Reservoir of Jazz will be back every Sunday evening of the month, and also on the first Sunday of September. The ROJ is a nice way to spend a few hours in the Park with several hundred others enjoying some jazz. This year there will be an activity for the Children at each concert. Last year the kids made instruments and were able to play with the band.

The Community Design Center of Pgh is having their Pedal Pittsburgh on May 21st. There will be a rest stop near the entrance to the Park. As the path goes thru our neighborhood, keep an eye out for folks on bikes. They will be sharing the road, since we don't have bike paths. Drive carefully and patiently.

Remember that street cleaning has started. Check the signs on your street and be sure to move your vehicles. Not only will you get a ticket if you don't, the street won't be cleaned. And don't be afraid to get out and sweep the street yourself.

Think of how much nicer the neighborhood would be if everyone picked up the trash in front of their house, including sweeping the street. You can make a difference.

The weather has been great, and the flowers are blooming. With such a warm spring, everything is just popping up and the colors are great. Be sure to plant some flowers and bulbs in your yard and enjoy all the beauty. There should even be opportunities to plant in public spaces or your neighbor's yards.

On the 800 block of Mellon (between Jackson and Stanton), the HPCDC has been working on 4 houses and an apartment building. They are looking fantastic. You probably noticed their other project at Negley and Avondale, where an old eye-sore is being rehabbed. It is right up the street from the Union Project, which looks better every day. They are making a big difference in the look and feel of Highland Park.

If you are not aware, the neighborhood has a website that lists announcements of upcoming events. Go to www.highlandparkpa.com and check it out. (Cont'd pg 2)

HPCC MAY PROGRAM THE BUILDING OF THE SUPER PLAYGROUND

The media called it "an urban barn-raising". Come learn about the building of the Super Playground in Highland Park. 17 years ago, two neighborhood women, Rosanne Levine and Marcia Dugan, saw the need for a real playground in the Park. The only catch? The City had no money. To afford it, we had to build it entirely with volunteers. Neighborhood school kids helped design it and then showed up with parents to build it. Over \$120,000 was raised in all sorts of ways to pay for the materials. And then 2,300 volunteers came from all over the County, but mostly right here, to build it in 5 long days. If you were part of it, you will want to relive the story. If you weren't there, you need to hear this story.

THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:30 PM, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006, AT ST. ANDREWS

President's Column Cont'd

Also, there is an email list that allows folks to send messages out to the entire neighborhood. If you are looking for an item, have stuff to give away or sell, looking for a lost pet (or finding one), want to warn others of a scam or crime, are looking for a contractor, or need some information, the email list is a great way to do it. You can sign up at the website listed above, with a link in the upper right of the page. You can also check out the archives of previous posts to see what you have missed.

I hope to see you out around the neighborhood. I would recommend walking, as it gives you time to take a look, talk to neighbors, and get a little exercise all at the same time.

If you have any questions or concerns, let me know.

HPCC Meeting Highlights March 16, 2006

Bob Staresinic

Bob Staresinic, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Finance: Copies of the Proposed Budget for September 2005 thru August 2006 were given to the Board members, and the Budget was passed with a vote of 7-0. A request had been made to the HPCC to be a Mile Sponsor for the Pedal Pittsburgh biking event on May 21, 2006. The motion to support the event for \$100 was passed with a vote of 6 for, with 1 Abstaining.

Public Safety: Jan Stayianos made the March 2006 crime statistics available. Jan is planning to have Commander Barone of Zone 5 come to a HPCC meeting to introduce herself. A suggestion was made to contact Duquesne Light to report any street lights that are not functioning correctly.

House Tour: Planning has begun for a House Tour, on September 30, 2006. No theme has been decided on yet.

Kym Jordan Simmons spoke about the uncertainty of the Farmer's Market for 2006. The plans to move the Farmer's Market from the Zoo parking lot have not been finalized, and it is unclear if the market will be moving or staying for 2006.

Rep. Joseph Preston Jr. spoke about his running for re-election, and his plans to continue to represent the East End in Harrisburg.

Patrick Dowd spoke about recent issues concerning the schools. On May 10th, Superintendent Roosevelt will be speaking at the Union Project about education reform in Pittsburgh. All are welcome to attend.

At the June 15th meeting, Mayor O'Connor is scheduled to speak. His office requested subjects that the HPCC would like to discuss with him. Suggestions included Downtown development and casinos, Public Safety and the School

Safety Zones, the Budget, Street Sweeping (or the lack of it), and graffiti.

The next meeting is May 18th, where a presentation on the Super Playground will be given by folks that were behind the construction of it over 10 years ago.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

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 Cirolì 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; 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

C. O. P. 665-3644 - Zone 5 665-3605

HPCC/HPCDC Web: www.highlandparkpa.com
Phone Numbers Area Code 412 unless Noted

Around St. Andrews

Bruce Robison

On the morning of Good Friday the St. Andrew's Youth Group completed their collection of non-perishable grocery items from folks in the neighborhood around the church and then were able to make a delivery of over *30* bags to the East End Food Pantry in East Liberty. Thanks to all our generous friends and neighbors who made this Holy Week Outreach activity of our young people such a great success!

Spring is in general a wonderful time around St. Andrew's, with Sunday morning services and weekday programs for all ages.

One highlight both in the congregation and for the wider neighborhood is the annual Summer Used Book Sale, which begins on the first Sunday of May and runs through middle or late August. There's always an expansive selection--and at an "inexpensive" price! The Book Sale is available Sunday mornings, of course, and during regular office hours during the week--Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and whenever you might find yourself in the building for meetings and community events during the week. Stop in and stock-up for those lazy summer hours in the hammock or at the shore!

"First Thursday" Evensong services and musical recitals continue at 8 p.m. in May (on May 4th) and June (on June 1st), and St. Andrew's Choir will join with the Choir of Calvary Episcopal Church once again for a service of Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Ascension--40 days after Easter Sunday. Ascension Day is May 25th this year, and the service and choral presentation will be this year at Calvary Church, 315 Shady Avenue (at Walnut Street), beginning at 8 p.m.

On April 15 St. Andrew's observed the one hundredth anniversary of the first services held in our "new" building at the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue. Easter Day, 1906, was I'm sure a great day for members of the congregation, as they had waited several years from the time of the closing of the previous church (located about where the new CAPA High School is downtown) at the end of the 19th century. It must have been exciting for them--and for all the folks of this "new" and growing neighborhood.

Over the century the identity of St. Andrew's has always been intertwined with the life of this neighborhood, and we continue to be glad to be such a central part of things. If there are ways in

which we can be of service to you--if you have a group that needs a place to meet, if there are pastoral concerns, a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor to visit, a family to comfort and support at the time of a death, or if you simply need to borrow a table or find a "rainy day" alternative location for a family picnic, please give us a call at 412 661-1245. We'll do what we can to be of help.



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School Board Update

Patrick Dowd

The Pittsburgh Board of Education and Superintendent Roosevelt continue to reform the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Recently, the Board approved a major project to overhaul the District's curriculum and supported the right-sizing of the central office staff. The Board also approved a tentative contract for the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) and on April 21st, the PFT membership ratified the agreement.

On March 22nd, the Pittsburgh Board of Education voted to overhaul the District's curriculum. From a recent audit, we learned that for years our curriculum has been severely fragmented. The Board contracted with Kaplan K-12, a well-established national firm, to revamp and unify our curriculum. Ultimately, this will better assist teachers in better preparing our students for Advanced Placement courses and for higher level mathematics courses. It will also help raise our SAT scores. While this project will cost over \$8 million, it is a worthy investment for our students.

The Board also approved the Superintendent's Academic Renewal Plan, which essentially eliminates needless layers of administration and provides closer contact between building-level principals and senior management. The Board "flattened" the central office by closing 188 central office positions and established 101 curriculum coaches. All of the coaches will be assigned to schools and held accountable for performance. The savings generated from the central office reductions will be \$4.2 million over the next two years and \$2.8 million annually starting in 2007.

One of the most important components of our education reform agenda is the contract with our teachers. On April 21st the PFT membership voted 1,547-to-870 to accept a the contract. (A copy of the agreement is available on my website www.patrickdowd.org.) Under the new two-year agreement, teachers at the top step of the salary scale will receive an average annual increase of 1.34%. The proposed contract also provides for annual step increases for all employees not at the top step, increasing costs an average of 2.4% per year across the unit. The total percentage increase of the wage and step settlement is 3.74% per year. This summer, the Board and PFT leadership will begin negotiating a new contract.

The Board and Superintendent sincerely desire to reform the district and improve its academic and

financial performance. We have closed schools, "flattened" our central office and invested in our curriculum. Ultimately, however, we know that our great teachers will be the cornerstone of reform effort. The ratification of the teacher contract signals that the PFT will continue to be an excellent partner in building and executing the much needed reforms.

As always, 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 patrick@patrickdowd.org or by regular mail at 341 South Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

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

Nursery available during both services

9:45 am Church School / Classes

MidWeek Bible Study – Wed 10:30 am

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

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Yard Sale

Judy Wolfe

Great Highland Park Yard Sale Sunday June 4, 2006 9AM-?

As usual the GREAT HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE will take place on the first Sunday in June (so easy for us old folks to remember). In case you haven't caught on to the whole sale thing – this is how it goes: everyone has a sale on the same day; the Community Club handles the advertising and organizing. Participants pay us \$12 to cover costs and in turn make a lot of money when the hundreds of people come to the neighborhood as they usually do.

If you want to participate, please provide me with the following information and **send \$12 (checks made out to HPCC)** to Judy Wolfe, 5910 Wellesley Avenue, Pgh, 15206.

Also please note: no forms will be accepted after May 30 and remember to pick up your signs and balloons on my porch on the Saturday before the sale (that would be June 3).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

ITEMS FOR SALE*: _____

*please be as concise as possible

INCLUDE \$12 CHECK WITH FORM



HPCC House Tour

Amy Maceyko

The house tour committee is pleased to announce that there will be a Highland Park House Tour this fall. There are many details to still be worked out, but we can announce that the tour will be on Saturday, September 30th.

We are looking to the neighborhood for two things at the moment:

1) Homeowners interested in having their home open for visitors during the tour. We are considering a few different themes, such as game rooms, stained glass, unique renovations, renovations using green building products and even great bathrooms. The tour isn't limited to houses that fit in whatever theme we choose so if you are interested, but if you don't have any of the above items, that won't preclude your home from being on the tour.

Homeowners do not need to be present during the tour; the only requirement is that the house is clean and neat for the day of the tour. The House Tour Committee will provide volunteers to guide visitors during the tour and keep them out of off limits areas. Our past homeowners who have shared their houses with 300-500 visitors from around the city have greatly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity show off their hard work and decorating skills!

If you'd like to talk about the possibility of having your house on the tour, please call Brigitte at 412-363-6869 or e-mail Amy at housetour@highlandparkpa.com.

2) We also need community members interested in helping to plan and organize the tour - working on PR, creating and hanging posters, selling program ads, coordinating ticket sales, etc. In a few months, we will also need to start gathering volunteers to work the day of the tour.

If you are interested in helping to organize or volunteer for the tour, again please call Brigitte or e-mail Amy.

Future updates about the 2006 Highland Park House Tour will be posted at www.highlandparkpa.com/org/hpcc/housetour.htm.

Thanks!

Highland Park House Tour Committee
Amy Maceyko, Peter Hughes, Brigitte Nadler

Highland Park Tennis Clinics

Mavis Close

The Highland Park Tennis Club (HPTC) is sponsoring Free Tennis Clinics at the courts on Stanton Avenue near Highland Park. Lessons are for those of all ages and abilities, adults and children over the age of 6. Racquets are available to those who need them. Clinics are on Saturdays beginning May 13, 2006, from 9:30 am to 11 am. They run each Saturday until July 22, weather permitting. If you have questions, please contact Mavis Close at 412-363-3253 or e-mail: mc10sysalsa@hotmail.com

Highland Park Habitat Enhancements Underway

Mary Beth Steisslinger

As part of a multi-year effort through the Highland Park Working Group (HPWG) in conjunction with the Dept. of Public Works, City of Pittsburgh (DPW), habitat enhancements and maintenance changes will be noticeable in the Park. The Working Group conducted multiple park inspections, discussions and site assessments to determine where changes in mowing and planting regimes might result in improved habitat for bioregional flora and fauna. Last season, mowing was reduced to once per year for a small pocket meadow on the south edge of Rhododendron Grove and for the area around Connecting Trail. The grasses and wildflowers were left to mature and go to seed on these sites, additional plantings were added to the sites by Urban EcoSteward volunteers, and the praise for the efforts far outweighed the dissent. I know of only one complaint, which focused on the fact that some Thistle was going to seed in the area. This was useful criticism and the Thistle was dispatched shortly thereafter by DPW... it was a patch of non-native invasive Canada thistle.

The HPWG, through the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, has engaged the volunteer efforts of the Three Rivers Birding Club to help us determine how the habitat changes affect bird sitings in the area. Previously, the park has been dominated by two landscape variations, mown lawn, and fragmented invaded woodland. Through the work of Urban EcoSteward volunteers, grants to fund Invasive Plant Control, Inc., and enhanced maintenance training in DPW focused on removing non-native invasive species, the face of the park will change steadily over the next few years. A new meadow is planned for the "Seven Bumps" Hillside below the Farmhouse; the grass and wildflowers will be allowed to grow throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall and will be mowed once a year during the dormant season to keep woody vegetation in check (i.e. it will still be a great sledding hill provided people continue to pick up after their dogs). Another major shift in the landscape will occur down along Washington Blvd. where the mown area will be shifted to moist meadows and planted with native grasses and wildflowers (ex. Eupatorium, Verbena, Monarda, species of Coneflowers etc). Removing non-native invasive plants and incorporating meadow and shrub-lands/ savannas into the

park landscape will certainly change the appearance of the park, increase the biodiversity of it's inhabitants and hopefully make the park a more interesting and aesthetically pleasing experience for park users. Any questions, comments or ideas are welcomed by the Highland Park Working Group: hpwg@highlandparkpa.com

East End/East Liberty Historical Society

Al Mann

Most residents of the Highland Park neighborhood may not be aware of this group, which has been in existence for some time, although several people in the community are members. The Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to sharing with the inhabitants of communities of the East Liberty Valley, including Highland Park, a sense of the unique history of the area.

The Society regularly issues brief articles, entitled "Bit-O-History," which provide fascinating background information on our area. More articles are in the works. In addition, an ambitious plan is underway to establish a community Heritage Center that will feature hands-on exhibits representing the varied contributions in art, music, and industry made by those who have preceded us, thereby providing education and inspiration to the generations to come. Funding for this project is being sought from a number of sources.

As a long-time Highland Park resident, I invite you to join this organization. Annual membership dues are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Send your dues to East End/East Liberty Historical Society, Inc., 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 305, Pittsburgh PA 15206. Phone 412-661-9660.

Let Them Eat Cake!

Christine Haas

The Midwife Center for Birth and Women's Health Presents

LET THEM EAT CAKE!

Cake decorating and tasting event

Thursday, June 22 from 6-9 p.m.
at the Union Project, Highland Park

Cake contest, live cake auction, silent auction,
entertainment and refreshments

Tickets: \$25

To enter the contest or for more information about the event, call 412-321-6884

Community Garden Planting

Chris Farber

Please join Western Pennsylvania Conservancy as we green Highland Park this spring! We need volunteers for the Highland Park Bridge garden planting on Wednesday, May 24th. The planting will start at 9:00am and end about 12:30pm. Be a part of the effort to beautify this gateway into Highland Park that so many of us pass by everyday and enjoy!

Here is what you can expect as a garden volunteer:

- We will be planting and mulching annual flowers.
- We plant rain or shine.
- The Conservancy provides the plants, general planting instructions, gloves (though you are welcome to bring your own), and safety vests for all volunteers.
- Dress for the weather-layers if it is cool, raingear if it is wet, sunscreen and hats for bright days.
- Wear sturdy shoes (no sneakers or sandals!) to protect your feet.
- You will get dirty!
- Please do not bring children younger than 8 years.
- No experience needed, we'll show you everything you need to know to plant flowers!

For a complete listing of all garden plantings this spring, please visit http://www.wpconline.org/gardens/planting-4_4_06.asp

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Farber, Volunteer Coordinator, at 412-586-2324 or at cfarber@paconserve.org.

T.O.L.A.T.R.

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- Individualized attention
- Transportation

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Public Safety/Blockwatch

Jan Stayianos

There seemed to be a rash of assaults/robberies in HP awhile back by several young boys as reported during our House Tour and around the holidays. This type of crime still seems to be happening in the neighborhood. As far as I know, no one has been apprehended.

Because of changes in the Mayor's office and the police department recently, the Zone 5 Citizen's Public Safety Council has not received any one-on-one reports from our new Commander, Linda Barone. However, the statistics in HP seem to be pretty good. In March there were 2 robberies (5500 Wellesley and 5100 Bunkerhill); 4 burglaries (all residence); 6 thefts (1 from vehicle, 3 from residence, and 2 from person); 2 vehicle thefts (5500 Stanton and 1100 N. St. Clair); 3 drug arrests (no site revealed).

Summer is right around the corner and that usually means more crime. Continue to pay attention to what is going on around you and watch out for yourselves and your neighbors. That's what Block watch is all about. If you go away, have a friend or neighbor look out for you, take the main in (or stop it), cut the grass, put some garbage out, etc. Also, don't forget to utilize silent complaint forms for any type of crime or suspicious activity. They can be picked up at Zone 5 or I can get them to you if you call me. Call 911 immediately if you witness a crime or are involved in one yourself. Pay attention to details so that you can give the officer that responds the very best information that you can.

A lot of you communicate via the HPCC website and learn about things as they happen. However, I don't always learn what you do. You can always use the telephone to give me information. I would especially be interested in hearing from anyone who would be interested in being a Block watch captain. It's such a simple job and yet such an important volunteer job for the community.

Drugs are still a problem in HP and sporadic drug arrests are made. Please use 911 or silent complaint forms to report drug activity that you are aware of. They say "It takes a village to raise a child." That same mentality could be applied to the drug problems. If people do not become complacent, maybe we could help cut down some of this drug activity.

Have a great summer! Watch out for each other and keep the children of our neighborhood safe. Call me at 412-363-8208 with any questions or information.

Community Design Center

The CDCP is a non-profit organization that improves the quality of life in the Pittsburgh region by encouraging good design of the built environment. They do this by investing in strategic projects, helping individuals and communities access architecture and planning resources, and educating the public about the impact of design.

The following programs/events are offered by the CDCP:

Renovation Information Network (RIN)

Tara Merenda

RIN provides affordable consultations between homeowners and design professionals to discuss residential renovation and home improvement plans.

For a flat \$150 fee, RIN matches a homeowner with an architect, interior designer or landscape architect who will conduct an in-home renovation consultation for up to two hours. RIN consultants are volunteers, and will not provide drawings or specifications, but will provide valuable information to help get renovation planning off to the right start. In addition, homeowners receive a Resource Guide to help them locate local programs and service providers who can help them put their plans into action.

To find out more about this innovative program, or to sign up for a consultation in your home, call 412-391-4333.

Pedal Pittsburgh 2006 – Sunday, May 21

Veronica Wilson

Pedal Pittsburgh is the region's premier cycling event celebrating design, health, fitness, and urban lifestyles. A ride, not a race, Pedal Pittsburgh offers a variety of course options ranging from 15 to 60 miles to accommodate everyone from recreational riders to hard-core fitness enthusiasts. This fun, educational bicycle ride draws over 2,000 riders annually, and highlights the neighborhoods and design landmarks that make Pittsburgh unique.

Ride starts and finishes at the Chevrolet Amphitheatre at Station Square. For additional information, call the event hotline at (412) 232-3545 or visit www.pedalpittsburgh.org.

FREE CONCERT



AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

FRIDAY, MAY 26

7:00 pm

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Experience the joy and enthusiasm
of the voices and music of the
USA-touring African Children's Choir!



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Legislative Update

state Rep. Joseph Preston Jr.

April has been a productive month for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg, but there are two issues that offer the greatest impact to residents.

First, the General Assembly took the first step toward enacting a state budget for the upcoming 2006-07 fiscal year. The House held two days of floor debate on the budget proposal and I was successful in inserting an amendment that would increase funding for mass transit in Pennsylvania by \$5 million, for a total appropriation of \$400 million.

I felt this increase was needed because of the necessary role mass transit plays in many citizens' lives. People rely on public buses and subways in order to get to work, go to school and reach place to place. Mass transit is struggling financially and it's important for Pennsylvania to step up to the plate to help.

The budget bill is currently before the state Senate for consideration.

The other issue is one that has been a long time in coming -- an increase in the state's minimum wage. After months of effort by myself and my House Democratic colleagues, we finally were able to bring the matter up for a vote. The bill would increase the minimum wage in Pennsylvania for the first time in nine years. At the current rate of \$5.15 per hour, a person working full time at that wage, falls \$2,000 below the poverty level for a family of two. The measure we approved would increase the wage to \$6.25 an hour on July 1 and to \$7.15 on July 1, 2007.

This increase is long overdue, and I hope the Senate will act quickly on this bill and send it to the governor for his signature. So far, 20 states have minimum wages higher than the federal rate. It's time for Pennsylvania to join this list.

And as always, if you have any questions or problems with state government, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 412-361-3692.

EXPERIENCE. RESPECT. RESULTS.



**VOTE MAY 16TH
RE-ELECT**

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH PRESTON, JR.

Urban Redevelopment Authority

The URA has great news for people who would like to purchase a home in the City of Pittsburgh! The URA has issued a \$9 million dollar bond to fund two programs; the Pittsburgh Home Ownership Program (PHOP) a mortgage program and the Housing Recovery Program (HRP) a mortgage/refinance and rehabilitation program. We have great low rates of 5.25% for PHOP and 6% for HRP, with a 30 year term. In addition, for both programs we offer a \$3,000 Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance Grant for income eligible borrowers. With incentives like these, we anticipate the money to go quickly.

The PHOP program is geared to first time homeowners, or those who have not owned a home in the past three years. This requirement is waived in certain areas of the city. The HRP program is great for homes that are at least 20 years old and in need of substantial repair. With HRP you can purchase and repair the home and combine the costs into one low monthly payment. Income limits do apply. To take advantage of these great low rates and to see if you qualify, visit us on the web at www.ura.org or call us at 412-255-6666.

Contractors interested in participating in construction projects sponsored by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh can contact the Authority's Engineering and Construction Department by mail, telephone and the internet.

To get an in-depth view of current projects out to bid by the Engineering and Construction Department, visit the Authority website at www.ura.org and click on to "Project Proposals and Bids". At the website you can register to be included on the invitation list by clicking on "Mailing List" and completing the information. Also shown on the website is the list of bidders that have picked up documents for the current projects out to bid and bid results and bid tabulations for recent projects. For contractors interested in home improvement work, the website allows you to request a contractor application for consideration on home-improvement type projects

Education InnovationsLAB Charter School

Salvador Wilcox

A Vision for Public Education in Pittsburgh

This past April, Education Innovations, Inc. celebrated 3 years in operation. While we have developed some great programs, like the Young Entrepreneur's Club and NatureLABcommunity, the best of our thinking has gone into the planning of the Education InnovationsLAB Charter School (eiLAB Charter School.) It has been an uphill battle to bring what we believe will be the best public school in the area, bar none; we have a vision worth battling for and we are committed to that vision.

Charter schools are public schools with the highest form of accountability—they give parents the ability to choose the best public school option for their child. There is no tuition and no eligibility requirement. We accept all students, based on space availability and hold a lottery if we're over subscribed. We are held to the same standards as other public schools. We are required to hire certified teachers. We take the same PSSA tests all other public school children take. Unlike most other public schools, parents don't have to send their children to our school if they don't feel we are living up to their expectation. And we operate at 80% of the average student expenditure!

The highest measure of success of any school must be the effect students have in transforming the neighborhoods in which they live. The eiLAB Charter School will give children the skills to contribute to their neighborhoods, particularly through a K-12 entrepreneurship curriculum that will teach students how to create jobs by starting small businesses, the workhorses of our regional economy. Our graduates will be able to compete with the brightest from around the world.

The Education InnovationsLAB Charter School is redefining the school experience by providing:

- A High-Tech learning environment coupled with hands-on projects
- Six Laboratories of Inquiry that immediately apply skills learned through a Core Curriculum
- The ability to explore 6 workforce clusters for 4 years and then choosing a major and a minor starting in 7th grade
- Nearly 15,000 hours of experience in a major and 5,000 hours of minor

But to do this, we've had to design a school based on students learning needs:

- 216-day academic school year
- 20 student in a class with a certified teacher and a teaching assistant in every classroom K-6;
- An Administrative Assistant for every 3 classrooms;
- Rotation through all six LABs from 3rd through 6th Grade so that students get the basics in all of them;
- A full-service tutoring center available daily to students who need support beyond the classroom;
- on-going projects that teach students how communities work and how to improve them;
- doing away with textbooks and replacing them with an online curriculum and multiple perspectives through primary sources and real books;
- a robust database system that tracks each students learning on a daily basis, capturing the learning process in the classroom; and
- teachers working together on a weekly basis, analyzing assessment data to respond quickly to the changing needs of each student.

We look forward to bringing the Education InnovationsLAB Charter School to Pittsburgh sometime during the 2006-2007 academic school year. For more information call 412.661.8751 ext. 150.

Summer Day Camp

Janice Burgett

The Highland Park Community Council has been providing a summer program for children for over fifty years. If you are unfamiliar with HPCC Summer Day Camp, you are really missing out on a wonderful neighborhood treasure. It's a wonderful way to meet neighborhood children, get a little physical, exercise your creativity and socialize.

Our program runs for six weeks each summer from 9:00 am to 12:00. This year we are in session from June 19 to July 28, 2006. Parents are free to choose which week(s) they are interested in and can sign up for one or all six weeks. The program is based at the Highland Park Farmhouse and offers your child any opportunity to make new friends while enjoying a morning of activities. If you haven't tried this program before, please consider creating this wonderful memory for your child - while 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. Applications made after June 1, 2006 will have to pay an additional \$25.00 late fee.

If you are interested in camp or have any questions please contact Janice Burgett at 412-361-2195 or check us out at www.highlandparkpa.com.

Registration Form is attached on the next page



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Highland Park Day Camp Registration Form

(Campers from 4 through 8 years old)

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

2.) _____ birthdate _____

3.) _____ birthdate _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Please register my child(ren) for the following weeks:

6/19____ 6/26____ 7/3____ 7/10____ 7/17____ 7/24____

Enclose:

\$90.00 per week for each camper (member)

or, **\$100.00** per week for each camper (non-member). Membership is \$25.00.

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.
Pgh 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: _____ # _____

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MAY 2006 CALENDAR

May 10	Superintendent Roosevelt will be speaking at the Union Project – 6:30 pm
May 13	Free Tennis Clinics start – details inside
May 18	Highland Park Community Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, St. Andrews – PROGRAM: The building of the Super Playground
May 18	Newsletter Articles Due for June Newsletter!
May 21	Pedal Pittsburgh – details inside
May 24	Highland Park Bridge garden planting – 9 am
May 26	African Children's Choir – ELPC, Friday, May 26, 7 PM
June 4	HIGHLAND PARK YARD SALE
June 22	Cake decorating and tasting event – Union Project 6 – 9 pm