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A few weeks back I needed to drop something off at the mailbox. The nearest one to my house (I think) is the one by the Union Project, which is a couple of blocks away. On my way down there, I passed a house that had, just at the junction of the “public” portion of the sidewalk and the steps that led up to the front porch, a magazine sitting there on the ground. It had clearly been outdoors for a bit - the pages were all spread around, a little frayed looking, and the breeze was stirring its pages. I gave it the kind of passing glance you'd give any interesting piece of debris you might pass as you were walking somewhere. And in that split second I could see that many of the pictures appeared to be women in underwear, sort of like what you might see in something slightly less outrageous than a Victoria's Secret catalog. And I passed it by. For one thing, it was trash, and I didn’t want to touch it. For another, I figured it might be awkward to have to explain to anyone what I was doing with such a magazine. And third, I was busy - on my way to go do something.

I reached the mailbox, put my letter in, and walked back, taking the same path. I passed the magazine/catalog a second time, and then I suddenly imagined my two boys, ages ten and seven, walking to or from their school bus stop, and coming across such an item. Suddenly, my perspective seemed very different. I walked back to the magazine and picked it up, intending to take it home and throw it in the trash. Which I did - but not before I ran into a couple of female friend/neighbors and their kids, with whom I chatted merrily for several minutes with the incriminating lingerie catalog rolled into a tube and tucked casually under my arm. I kept waiting for one of the kids or their moms to ask what I had, but it never happened. I got home, explained the situation to Sue (can you imagine what might have happened if she found it in our house) and threw it away. Since then, I’ve had fun telling the story to others - and gotten some laughs in the bargain - but now I share it with you primarily as a lead-in to my point.

This is our neighborhood. And, for whatever reason, it’s got plenty of trash swirling around - thankfully, not all of it as potentially problematic as the piece I dealt with. In this respect, our neighborhood is neither as bad nor as good as it could be. But it seems that lately, I’ve been rubbing elbows with a lot of people talking about doing more to clean things up, whether it’s the members of the HPCC board talking about doing something more sustained than the once-a-year “Redd Up Pittsburgh” day, my wife Sue talking about walking around our block with a trash bag, or some of my neighbors and their kids (the same ones, in fact, from my casually-rolled-lingerie-catalog story above) recently participating in a Trash-a-Thon event their school does annually as part of their efforts to love the planet. I’ve also found some websites that speak to this issue locally - you can check out www.citizensagainstlitter.org or www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/redduppgh/index.html or even www.prc.org (those folks with the cool “evil litterbug” campaign).

As spring turns to summer and we all are spending a little more time outdoors, please do what you can in the name of ‘Park Pride. If you’re going on a stroll, take a little bag with you and grab some stray trash. Take advantage of the opportunities our city offers to team up with others to beautify our areas. A little love goes a long way, and helps our neighborhood to be just a little bit cleaner. Thanks!

Eric D. Randall, HPCC President

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Eric D. Randall, HPCC President
**HPCC Bylaws**

By Bob Staresinic, *Nomination Chair*

According to the HPCC Bylaws, June is when nominations for Officers and Directors are to be submitted. Elections are held at the annual members meeting on the third Thursday of September.

The Officer positions currently open for nomination are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. These are 1-year terms, and are currently occupied by folks who have been in these positions for several years. The President shall be the chief executive officer and have general supervision of all business and affairs of the organization, subject to the control of the Board of Directors. The Vice-President shall assist the President in the discharge of his/her duties and perform the duties in the absence of the President. The Treasurer is responsible for all funds and securities of the organization. The Secretary shall keep a list of the members and keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors.

There are 3 positions open for Director. The Director positions are 3-year terms. The Board of Directors, which includes the above mentioned Officers, shall have general charge, management, and control of funds, property and activities of the HPCC. The main duties are attending meetings and discussing/voting on issues before the Board.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, or know of another neighbor who would be a good candidate, please let me know at 412-441-8972 or bob.63@netzero.net.

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**HPCC March Meeting Minutes**

Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm with a quorum present.

Paul Miller reported that applications for the Yard Sale have been coming in. The Yard Sale will take place on Sunday June 5th from 9 am until folks quit selling. Paul is looking into getting the map on the website and possibly available on mobile phones.

Bob Staresinic spoke about the Bryant Street Festival taking place the same day as the Yard Sale, Sunday June 5th from Noon to 5 pm. Craftspeople and artists can still sign up for a table. The new website has launched, and there is a tagline contest going on. Check out the site at [www.highlandparkcc.wordpress.com](http://www.highlandparkcc.wordpress.com).

Nominations for Board positions are traditionally made in June, for the year starting in September. If you are interested in joining the HPCC Board, please contact Bob Staresinic at bob.63@netzero.net or 412-441-8972.

Nancy Arnold reported that there is an application in to Tree Pittsburgh to plant street trees on Wellesley Avenue, Heberton and Winterton Streets in fall 2011.

Nancy Arnold, Sarah Faulx and Bob Staresinic are interested in getting a regular litter pick-up program going in the neighborhood. Watch for additional information about this coming soon.

Bruce Robison announced that the book sale is going on at St Andrews Church, in Brooks Hall. If you have need for Summer reading materials, or have books to donate, stop in and check out the shelves of books.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next HPCC is meeting is Thursday, June 16th at St. Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton St, at 7:00 pm. Susan Rademacher from the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will be the speaker.
Susan moved to Highland Park from the South Hills in 1999, living first in rentals before finally purchasing a row house in the Alpha Terrace historic district in East Liberty. Don’s home and work had been in the South Side since the early 1980s. He was one of the first to renovate an old South Side home, was the first Executive Director of the South Side Local Development Corporation, and his current venture, the real estate firm Carlson and Associates, www.casouthside.com, remains on the South Side at 18th and Sarah.

After marrying in 2006, Don joined Susan in her 1894 Romanesque Revival row house. They love the old place, and have made many improvements including a large new bathroom, an upstairs laundry, a renovated powder room, a new deck and patio, new furnace, water heater, roof, plumbing, painting, windows, and paint job. With just the two of them, however, it was just too much space. (Their N. Beatty St. home is for sale, hint, hint.)

They looked at several houses in Highland Park, but faced the same situation each time - lots of room and lots of renovation needed.

They began looking at available lots in the city on which to build a smaller home. They even considered returning to the South Side to live on the Slopes. (Susan told Don she’d give up her beloved historic home only if she had a view.) They looked at many properties, but discovered neither really wanted to live on the South Side. They liked the beauty and convenience of Highland Park and the dynamism of the East End.

Their dogs helped them settle on the lot at 922 N. Highland. While walking them they would pass the “For Sale” sign on the narrow lot and Don would say, “I could build a house there.” To which Susan would reply, “No, you can’t, it’s too small.” After many dog walks Susan finally responded, “Ok, prove it.” Don called on long-time friend and architect, Dave Morgan, to come up with...
Highland Park History Quiz

Questions:
1. Who was responsible for building the Pittsburgh Zoo?
2. When did the Pittsburgh Zoo open?
3. Who built the Park, and when did it open?
4. Who is buried in the Park, and where?
5. Where is the George Washington marker in the Park?

Answers:
1. On Christmas Eve 1895, Christopher Magee, a political boss and founder of Magee-Women’s Hospital, donated 20 acres to the City to build a zoological garden.
2. The Zoo opened on June 14, 1898, with 200 animals that were kept in a large, Victorian-style menagerie building.
3. Pittsburgh Public Works director Edward M. Bigelow, known as the Father of the City Parks, founded the 465-acre Highland Park in 1889. Bigelow lived in the white mansion that still stands at the southwest corner of Jackson St. and North Highland Ave. Bigelow Blvd. was named after him.
4. In a small grove west of the road circling Reservoir No. 1, stands the Negley Marker, built in 1912 to commemorate Alexander Negley and his wife Mary Ann Burkstresser, who are buried there along with some 50 early settlers in the area.
5. In 1952, a marker was placed in Highland Park by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of one of George Washington’s journeys into Western Pennsylvania. In all, Washington made seven visits here, the first being when he was a 21-year old colonial major sent to inform the French that they were trespassing on English soil. The present location of this marker is unknown. If you find it, please contact us.

Last month I wrote about Jeff and Sarah VanderMolen, Highland Park residents and founders of Haiti H2O, (WWW.haitih2o.org) and the mission trip to Bassin Caiman, Haiti they organized for Friendship Community Church in West Oakland during Holy Week this spring. In that article, I highlighted the wonderfully generous Bryant Street merchants who donated merchandise or gift certificates for various services in support of our Spaghetti Dinner/Auction fund raiser, which exceeded our fund raising goals! Thank you, again, Highland Park businesses for your generosity and global vision in helping the people of Haiti.

Highlights from Haiti:
The team of twenty or so, ranging in ages 2 to 50+ years, shared a week of our lives serving in the rural community of Bassin Caiman where people are truly living on the edge. We completed the first community composting toilet and started building another, took a community health survey, and corporately worshiped with the Bassin Caiman church through praise, prayer, dance, mime and the hearing of The Word.

The community commemorated the completed composting toilet with an educational training discussion of its proper use. They genuinely appreciated the help and “new technology”, as Pastor Salon calls the composting toilet. One of our translators, Joanne, a Haitian agronomist, emphasized that all who understood how to use the toilet correctly were to teach someone else to carry on this vital knowledge and information.

The health survey work featured questions to the head of household regarding the names and ages of each person dwelling there; homeownership or rental; trees and crops; livestock owned; education of family members; the distance traveled for healthcare; means of financial support; household furniture; water source; and toileting location and practices. All of this information collected will be used by Haiti H2O for quantitative data to support grant writing for future community projects promoting better sanitation and water and basic educational needs. Unfortunately much of the Haitian population outside of the cities is unknown and unhelped by the government.
The work done in collaboration with the church community is vital to significant progress and hope for this area.

We also were able to have an educational seminar conducted by Laurie Hurt, one of our team members, who teaches French in Mt. Lebanon. She shared techniques in story telling that allows the students to learn vocabulary through the telling of the illustrated story. Some of the teachers in the area scarcely have a high school education and they are teaching the elementary students. Kreyol is the language of the country people, while the elite of the cities speak French.

We presented Pastor Salon with a Friendship Church congregational picture to remember us by, and we as a team returned holding in our hearts precious experiences with these dear people, our new friends. This trip has made a difference in many lives, the teams and the Haitians.

Friendship Community Church travels to Haiti every two years. Next trip I hope to send Eric and our ten year old son, Alex. I miss my Haitian friends who will be a part of me in the years to come.

When we arrived back in the United States, on the way to baggage claim, our advertisers hit us with large signage saying “If it is worthy doing, it is worth doing faster.” Everything in me wanted to audibly cry out, “No, No, No!” Haiti was an oasis to the frenetic pace of our society. We rose in the early morning with the predawn crowing of the roosters. The rhythm of the day followed the natural cycle of the day. Without electricity, the day ends with the shining stars in the velvet sky, before the large moon brightened the sky and dimmed the stars. Even still, we tracked Orion’s belt going over the mountain and followed the Big Dipper dance in the sky overnight. I want to keep with me one of the philosophies we adopted during the trip: slow is steady and steady is fast. Maybe that is how the people of Haiti are so rich in relationship and community. I encourage you, my Highland Park community, to meditate on this idea.

Thank you so much for giving me the chance to share some of my Haiti experiences with Highland Park residents. If you want more information regarding Haiti H2O and their marathon results or other trips, etc., please call me and I will try to get the answers - 412-427-6276.
The Community Safety Website

By Monica Watt

At one of our HPCC meetings, Commander Linda Rosato-Barone presented the City’s new Community Safety Website, which is designed to help the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police communicate and inform the public of various safety related issues. The website is a supplement to the Official City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Department website.

Community Safety Home Page

I should first explain that the Community Safety Website does NOT require users to register with the site. Registering is optional, unless you want to sign up for Alerts.

From the home page, you can go directly to an anonymous Submit a Tip form, to the Police Blotter to find out what all of the sirens were the other night or to search for Alerts by zone. At the bottom of the page are all of the Zones covered by the site. Highland Park is in Zone 5. The Zone pages give contact information for each zone, but remember, ALL emergency calls should go through 911.

Submit a Tip

The Tips Form on the website is designed for residents to submit tips to police of potential crimes, safety concerns or other matters.

You can supply information on the suspects, locations, vehicles along with other details. You can opt to submit a tip anonymously and use a unique tip code to follow up on the tip with additional information.

Police Blotter

The police blotter page displays an auto-generated blotter of police incidents throughout the City for a given day. The blotters list 2.0 and Arrest Reports in a non-descript way, only the charge(s) and block that the incident occurred on are included. Non-juvenile actors have their age and sex displayed, but names and exact addresses are excluded from the blotter. The blotters are automatically generated on a nightly basis. The blotters are published on a round robin basis, meaning that tonight the blotter from yesterday will be generated and published to the website.

Receiving Email Alerts

You can sign up for four distinct types of email Alerts in the new Community Safety Website: City-Wide Alerts, Zone Specific Alerts, Business Alerts and Block Watch Group Alerts.

Visit www.communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov to find out more.
With the warm weather finally here, many people start thinking about hiring contractors to do home improvement projects. Be careful when choosing someone to work on your home. It’s always a good idea to ask for references.

This is also a good time to be reminded of Pennsylvania’s Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act of 2008. The purpose of the law is to prevent fraudulent home repair work. Be sure to pass this information on to friends or relatives who also might find it useful.

The law requires all contractors who perform at least $5,000 worth of home improvement work per year to register with the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Attorney General’s Office. Once contractors register with the state, they receive a certificate identifying the name of the individual contractor, name and address of the business and a registration number. The law also outlines the requirements for home improvement contracts and provides penalties for home improvement fraud.

To find out if an individual is registered with the state, contact the Bureau of Consumer Protection toll free at 1-888-520-6680. To learn more about the law, including tips on finding a contractor, visit my website www.pahouse.com/Preston and look for the link “Home Improvement Consumer Protection.”

As Democratic chairman of the House Consumer Affairs Committee, I also wanted to let you know we are contemplating changes to make the law stronger through H.B. 1336.

The bill would require all fees collected from home improvement contractors to go into a dedicated interest-bearing account in the state’s General Fund to provide a dedicated funding source for the Attorney General’s Office to administer and enforce the law.

Under current law, contractors applying for registration must show proof of insurance. The bill would allow proof of insurance to include information indicating the applicant is self-insured.

The bill also would establish a one-third maximum deposit for home improvement contracts valued at $5,000 or more. Current law establishes a threshold of $1,000 which contractors believe is unreasonably low.

Finally, the bill would define “home improvement retailer” and allow retailers (large and small) the option to opt out of the one-third partial deposit requirement under the act. Under H.B. 1336, home improvement retailers may collect 100 percent of their costs up front if they post an irrevocable letter of credit to the Attorney General’s Office for $100,000 per store location, not to exceed $2 million for retailers with multiple stores. These retailers also must verify that their contractors are registered under the law and have proof of liability insurance.

The bill was reported from the Consumer Affairs Committee and awaits action by the full House.

Enjoy the warm weather and keep an eye out for unscrupulous repair people who would like nothing better than to scam you out of your hard-earned dollars. If you have been caught in a situation like this, or know somebody who has, please contact the Attorney General’s Office to help prevent others from being taken advantage of.

As always, please let me know how I’m doing as your representative in Harrisburg by stopping by my office at 208 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206, or by phone at 412-361-3692.

Electric Supplier Shopping: Powering Choice in Your Home

By Senator Jim Ferlo

Summer is coming, and with that, higher electricity prices for some of us as fans and air conditioners begin to hum. You may have received pieces of mail from new companies on choosing an electricity supplier. I certainly have. It may be a prudent time of year to look into your options on electricity choice.

Utility rates are governed by the Public Utility Commission. Over the last few years, established rate caps expired, allowing utility companies to petition the PUC to raise their rates based on their costs. Alternate suppliers were empowered to enter the market and give consumers more choices. The PUC has created PA Power Switch (www.papowerswitch.com) as a guide for consumers to use in making informed choices.

There are three parts to your electric service: generation, transmission and distribution. Generation is the production of electricity—the companies who produce it are called suppliers. Transmission is the movement of that electricity from where it is produced to a local distribution system. Distribution is the delivery of electricity to your home or business.

In most of my district in Pittsburgh city limits, Duquesne Light serves as your electric company. Duquesne will continue to deliver your service, provide maintenance, and handle your billing, but you are now able to choose the electric supplier who generates the electricity that you use. Once you enter your zip code, you can see all the available suppliers, their price to compare, and contractual terms. You are welcome to stay with Duquesne Light as supplier or you may elect to switch. A quick search for zip code 15201, home of my Lawrenceville district office, pulled up seven different options for residential properties.

I urge you to visit PA Power Switch online or to call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380 and research carefully. If I can be of any assistance in this or any other matter, please contact my district office at 412-621-3006 or visit my website at www.senatorferlo.com.
June, July, and August tend to be somewhat quieter times around the St. Andrew’s scatter. The Summer Book Sale continues until Labor Day, with a great selection of gently used books in just about all the Dewey Decimal System categories - and at unbeatable prices! Stop in weekdays or Sunday mornings - or whenever the Hall is open, and feel free to look through the selection. (Contributions, by the way, are gladly received throughout the summer.)

Our Sunday morning services in June continue at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with Choir at the later service. In July and August we move into our “Summer Schedule,” with services at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Nursery Care at both services continues through the summer. Although our dedicated Church School/Youth Group/Adult Ed. hour won’t resume until 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 13, children in attendance at the later-morning Sunday services will be dismissed for a time of Children’s Chapel, stories, music, and fun activities.

St. Andrew’s has been at the heart of the Highland Park neighborhood for more than a century. If there is a pastoral need that we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a wedding to celebrate, a sick or shut-in friend or neighbor to be visited, a family to support at the time of a death - please feel free to be in touch. Or if you need to find some space for a meeting or family gathering, or to borrow a few chairs: we’ll be glad to help if we can. Call us at (412) 661-1245, or check us out on the web: www.standrewspgh.org.

**HPCC Officers**
- President: Eric Randall (412) 661-1176
- Vice President: Monica Watt (412) 361-7902
- Treasurer: Kelly Vitti (412) 361-7669
- Secretary: Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

**HPCC Directors**
- Dave Atkinson
- Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863
- Jana Finder (412) 370-3778
- Al Mann
- Rachel Matos (412) 361-3802
- Paul Miller (412) 365-0675
- Mike Nadler (412) 363-3483
- Nancy Levine-Arnold
- Sarah Trbovic

**HPCC Committee**
- Beautification: Monica Watt (412) 361-7902
- Children’s Events: Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533
- Education: Dave Atkinson
- House Tour: OPEN
- Finance: Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742
- Membership: Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331 membership@highlandparkpa.com
- Newsletter: Monica Watt (412) 361-7902 editor@highlandparkpa.com
- Nominating: Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972
- Public Safety: Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863 public-safety@highlandparkpa.com
- Reservoir of Jazz: Ethan Winograd (412) 352-2767
- Super Playground: Monica Watt (412) 361-7902 & Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366
- Yard Sale: Paul Miller (412) 365-0675
- Welcoming: Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972
- Zoning: Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742
Curious about what it would take to raise chickens in the city? Have a hankering for fresh local eggs in the morning? Wish you could take advantage of some of the benefits of country living right here in the City?

Or maybe you just like chickens...

Join us for the First Ever City of Pittsburgh Chicks-in-the-Hood Urban Chicken Coop Tour, a self-guided tour of backyard chicken coops around the City. Take a peek at backyards all over town for creative coop ideas and a chance to talk chicken with owners and other poultry enthusiasts. Plus you’ll get a chance to see other back-yard sustainability practices in place — like rain barrels, organic gardening techniques, composting, and more.

Tickets for the tour are $5 - kids are free! Ticket purchase gets you a map with directions to each participating coop on the tour. All proceeds from each ticket sale will be donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank’s Urban Agriculture Programs, including The Farm Stand Project and the Plant-A-Row Project.

Tickets will be available the morning of the tour at The Quiet Storm www.qspgh.com at 5430 Penn Avenue in Friendship/Garfield, Tazza D’Oro www.tazzadoro.com at 1125 North Highland Avenue in Highland Park, Crazy Mocha www.crazymocha.com, 2 East North Avenue on the North Side, and 7665 Lock Way West, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, located at the Highland Park Dam at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Allegheny River Boulevard. Questions or advanced tickets? Contact Jody by email noblechoder@aol.com or 412.441.4975.
Port Authority changes

Port Authority will be adjusting the following routes in Council District 7 beginning on June 12th:

**87 Friendship**: Some weekday trip times adjusted.

**91 Butler Street**: Some trips will now end at Old Freeport and Freeport roads rather than ending at the VA Hospital. Weekday midday service will now operate every 18 minutes. Numerous trip times adjusted on weekdays and Saturdays.

In addition, changes will be made to the P1 and P2 (the East Busway routes) and 15 other routes. You can find a link to a list of all changes on the Port Authority website – [www.portauthority.org](http://www.portauthority.org).

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Monroe Robison, Rector
The Ven. Archdeacon Jean D. Chess, Deacon
Peter J. Luley, Organist & Choirmaster

At St. Andrew's

**Sunday Morning Services**
9 a.m.
In the Chapel
11 a.m.

Choral Service in the Anglican Tradition

**Nursery Care**: 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
**Church School, Youth, and Adult Programs, Sunday Mornings**, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

**Wednesday Morning Service**
Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
Rector’s Bible Study 11:15 a.m. – Noon

Choral Evensong
First Thursday of the Month, 8 p.m.
Third Sunday of the Month, 4:30 p.m.

Check our Website for Special and Holiday Services and Activities

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fax: 412.441.5678

Mike Fiore
Owner

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