Highland Park
Community Council Newsletter

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Hello to everyone in Highland Park! Welcome to the annual edition of the HPCC newsletter. I have been looking forward to writing this letter for some time. It is a genuine pleasure to be able to reach out to the entire neighborhood each May. This, of course, being my first time as president of the HPCC.

In 2011, the HPCC was faced with some tough decisions. State and federal funding for community groups had begun to diminish and it was clear that grants that we relied on to make events like Reservoir of Jazz a success every August were not going to be available to us much longer. Like the rest of the country, we had to tighten our belt.

One of the choices we made was to make our monthly newsletter to members, which had previously been mailed, electronic - or as they say, “green”. It also allowed us to go to a full color format. We knew it meant eliminating one of the most visible benefits of membership by putting it on the HPCC ListServ, but expenses had to be cut. We knew many of our members were on the ListServ, and since we did not have member’s email addresses, it was the best solution available. We also post it to the HPCC website for those who are not on the ListServ.

Long story short, we developed a budget that we could sustain without outside support and still managed to produce many of the key events the HPCC, and Highland Park for that matter, have become known for: Reservoir of Jazz free concerts each Sunday in August, the Giant Highland Park Yard Sale, the Bryant Street Festival, the Children’s Halloween Parade and Fourth of July Bike Parade, the Marathon Party on Bryant Street, and others.

I share all of this with you because I received a note on the back side of an HPCC membership renewal form this past December that really had an impact on me. It said “I do want to support the HPCC, but now that there is only one glossy publication, what is my benefit?” The note on the renewal card got me thinking - could there be more people in the neighborhood that feel the same way. From the outside, I suppose it can look that way. Behind the scenes, there is a group of dedicated residents working diligently to try and make sure our neighborhood continues to thrive.

In addition to all of the public events I listed above, part of our role in the community is also to monitor zoning in the neighborhood to try and ensure the neighborhood’s best interests are being represented. So far this year, the HPCC played a major role in two separate zoning board hearings, strongly influencing their outcome. We are also playing an active role in the Morningside Area Community Council’s efforts to reconfigure Heth’s and Natoli fields, which will have great impact on the residents living in that corner of the neighborhood.

We are also very concerned about public safety. We continue to act as a liaison between the Zone 5 police department during stressful times, communicating the latest information to the neighborhood via the ListServ as it becomes available. This month, we are also submitting to the City a pedestrian safety review of our major intersections that outlines areas of concern and suggested recommendations. Take the main entrance to the Park, for example. There is not one crosswalk leading into one of the city’s major parks and across the wide entrance to the fountain, a route many families use regularly.

From the welcome signs that greet everyone as they enter Highland Park to the annual tree plantings and maintenance of the flower beds at the main entrance to the park, the HPCC Beautification Committee has been hard at work.

I hope this letter helps everyone better understand the role the HPCC plays in the neighborhood and that we need your continued support and membership.

We plan to unveil an online payment option in time for next year’s membership drive. In the meantime, I encourage you to go on the HPCC website and download a membership form. While you are on the website, I would also suggest reading the March 2013 newsletter. There is an interesting article on the Heth’s Bridge replacement project that will soon be affecting everyone in the neighborhood. Our new (shorter) URL is www.hpccpgh.com.

Monica Watt - HPCC President
Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

Commander O'Connor from Zone 5 spoke about the recent car break-ins in the neighborhood. A man who was released from jail has been arrested for several of these incidents, and since then there have been no more reports of cars being broken into. The commander handed out crime statistics for the area since January 2013. He encouraged everyone to call 911 whenever you see anything out of the ordinary.

Nancy Arnold spoke about the tree planting that will be happening on Saturday, April 27 around the Farmhouse. Volunteers are still needed for the event.

Bob Staresinic spoke about the Clean Pittsburgh Commission Redd-Up taking place on Saturday, April 20th and the Great American Clean-Up taking place on Saturday, May 11th. Both events will be picking up litter on the neighborhood streets, and gloves and bags will be supplied.

Nancy Shultz updated the group on the application for 501(c)3 status. The IRS is currently reviewing applications submitted in March 2012. The HPCC application was submitted in December 2012, so it may be a while before any status update is available.

Leslie Jung, King Avenue resident, spoke about the Heth’s and Natoli field project. A steering committee has been formed, with Highland Park and Morningside residents included, to help define how each of those fields will be used and renovated in the future. The sports organizations that use these fields are currently meeting to organize scheduling of the fields. The project involves making Heth’s field configured for football and soccer, with Natoli field configured for softball and baseball.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next HPCC meeting is Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church. Due to the upcoming construction at St. Andrew’s, the HPCC June meeting will be held at Union Project.
The Great Highland Park
Yard Sale & Bryant Street Festival

Yard Sale
The festivities begin the first Sunday in June (the 2nd) with our massive, multi-family Highland Park Community Council Yard Sale and Bryant Street Festival.

Like last year, we will have over a thousand people strolling through the neighborhood looking for antiques, bargains and collectibles. For those of you living in an apartment or on a side street with limited foot traffic, we will be hosting the Highland Park Flea Market at the corner of Bryant St. and N. Highland Avenue. If this is of interest, please check the appropriate box when filling out the form. There will be an option to rent tables and chairs for the flea market. Space will be limited so don’t delay. It is easy to participate. The Highland Park Community Council coordinates the yard sale. Simply fill out the form provided below. With the exception of your address and the items you wish to sell, all information is confidential. Mail the form and $15 (checks made out to HPCC) to the address listed at the bottom of the page. You can choose to email your information and send your payment prior to the due date. Your payment covers advertising and printing costs for maps, signs and address/sale item listings. No form will be accepted after Sunday, May 26th.

Don’t forget to pick up your signs and balloons the Saturday (June 1st) before the yard sale on the front porch of the address provided below. Please print legibly to minimize errors.

Bryant Street Festival
After a healthy morning of walking our tree-lined streets in search of your favorite yard sale find, we invite you to join us on Bryant Street, the heart of our business district, for live musical performances, delicious foods from our local businesses and neighbors, and artists selling their jewelry, ceramics, stationery and much more. There will be activities for kids including a moonwalk, face painting and Union Project will be spinning their clay wheel! The festival is Sunday, June 2nd from Noon until 5:00 p.m.

Bryant Street will be blocked off between N. Highland and N. St Clair with musical acts on the stage including a musical group from Obama High School and the Dilworth Drummers. Look for more details on the Highland Park ListServ and on posters in our local businesses.

We would love to have more residents participate this year. If you are interested in participating, please let us know. We will provide you with an 8-foot table and two chairs. We will also need some volunteers to assist with setting up and taking down the tables and chairs. Please contact us via email at festival@highlandparkpa.com if you want to participate, volunteer, or have any questions.

Yard Sale Participation Form

Name ___________________________ Street Address ___________________________
Phone Number ___________________________ Email Address ___________________________

If you are interested in the Bryant Street Flea Market option, check here:  ☐ Yes

Items For Sale _________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Please be concise: No more than 200 characters. List best items first. There is no limitation on what can be sold, only what is in placed in the map handout.

Please mail (or drop off) the form and a check (made out to the HPCC) for $15 to Paul Miller, 5714 Elgin Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. For questions, please call (412) 365-0675 or email YardSale@highlandparkpa.com.
Redevelopment efforts in Highland Park are more active than they have been in years, particularly in the southwest corner of the neighborhood. In just the past few months, major HPCDC-led renovations have begun at five houses, and more are expected to follow soon. At four of these properties, dilapidated multi-unit apartment buildings, will be brought back to life as single family homes. The fifth will have two for-sale units that share a single grand entry to better blend into its block. As a National Historic Register neighborhood, maintaining and restoring houses in keeping with the character of their surroundings is a guiding principle for all HPCDC projects.

In a funding environment that remains very challenging for traditional sources of community development financing, we have had to be especially creative to move these houses into construction. New partnerships were necessary, and we are very pleased to be working today with two private developers who are willing to go the extra mile by committing to the level of quality and historic sensibility that the neighborhood deserves. That we were able to attract such partners says a great deal about the effectiveness of our earlier investments, extensive renovations made at a time when few could foresee a turnaround in this area. Working with quality developers who now want to invest their own dollars in these blocks also makes clear that every corner of Highland Park is increasingly viewed by both home buyers and investors alike as the “go to” neighborhood in the East End.

Please make a point of visiting these addresses in your walks or rides around the neighborhood:

839 and 841 N. St. Clair Street: These two houses form one end of a row of six similar turreted properties. The HPCDC acquired these two large multi-unit buildings several years ago to help stabilize the fledgling single family trend on the block. Moving them forward was a tall order, but we are very happy to report that both are now underway and will be on the market this fall as newly restored single family homes.

812, 814 and 816 Mellon Street: A trio of similar design, two of these are currently in progress and the third will follow soon. All three have exerted a significant drag on the revitalization of this fragile street. Three new single family owners will make a major statement about the positive and lasting recovery of the block.

5811 Wellesley Avenue: Also a very large house, this property will offer for sale two side-by-side 3-story townhouses when completed. The porch and single center entry vestibule will be retained to best maintain the character of the house.

Bryant Street: Progress continues and we greatly appreciate neighborhood interest in the HPCDC projects. With many partners and many approvals, things don’t always move as quickly as we’d like. Good things are happening, however, and we expect to be able to share more definitive announcements soon. In the meantime, we are very pleased that private investment continues to follow our lead, improvements on the block are underway today, and the comeback of this important part of Highland Park remains on track. Stay tuned for upcoming exciting news.

If you are interested in becoming a partner in the renewal of Bryant Street, 2,400 sq. ft. of ground floor tenant space remains available in the upcoming Phase 2 new construction. Please email ernest.hogan@hpcdc.org at the CDC with inquiries.
If you have a child under five years old, please join Principal Bivens for a tour of Fulton elementary - which one teacher called “Pittsburgh Schools’ best kept secret.” Fulton is a STAR school, having achieved the top 1% for student growth in Pennsylvania in 2012. Fulton’s 5th graders are known for their high math scores, typically placing either first or second among city schools. The tour will be held on June 4th at 9:00 am.

Pittsburgh Fulton is located in Highland Park across the street from St. Andrew’s Church. Fulton offers a unique blending of a structured, traditional neighborhood setting with a French-emphasis magnet program that promotes the study of French culture and language. All children in K-1 get exposure to the French language through movement, songs, poetry, basic vocabulary and simple greetings. A distinction is made in the educational programming for magnet and non-magnet students starting in grades 2-5. Basic French vocabulary is taught and expanded into sight words, sentences and simple paragraphs. Emphasis is on developing oral and auditory language skills (speaking and listening). The instructional program is based on the District’s comprehensive curriculum.

The students in the magnet program have the opportunity to progress to Obama International Academy in 6th grade. In 2012, Obama Academy graduates were accepted into 55 colleges and universities including CMU, Pitt, Penn State, University of Pennsylvania and many other well respected institutions. Graduates can earn up to a full year of college credit - though the IB diploma and up to $40,000 in Pittsburgh Promise scholarship money for in-state tuition - just a few steps away from Highland Park.

Visit the Pittsburgh District, A+ Schools and the HPCC website for more detailed information. Please RSVP for the tour to Dave Atkinson at westpennworks@gmail.com prior to June 4th.
All the brightness of spring, and summer not far behind - and may it be a season of much joy and sunshine all around the neighborhood!

June, July, and August are going to be a little different for us around the St. Andrew’s scatter. Through the end of May Sunday services will continue with the regular schedule - simpler service in the Chapel at 9 a.m., a choral service at 11 a.m.

But during June, July, and August we will shift to a “summer schedule,” with one service only, at 9:30 a.m., and with our children’s programs scheduled during a portion of the morning service hour on selected Sundays.

We would also note that in the midst of a Capital Campaign to renew our historic church and to provide enhanced accessibility, St. Andrew’s will see some “construction disruption” this summer, and there will be a period of weeks when our Sunday morning services will be moved to the Chapel at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, on North Highland Avenue. Our “on the road” Sundays will probably be in June and the first part of July, but please call the Church Office for more information.

Of interest for families, St. Andrew’s will be conducting a “Chorister Camp” during a week this summer, for elementary/middle school aged children who may be interested in beginning or continuing in our exceptionally rich children’s music program. Please contact our Organist and Choirmaster (and Highland Park neighbor) Peter Luley for more information via St. Andrew’s Church Office.

St. Andrew’s has been on the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue, 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 at www.standrewspgh.org.
Preparing for a Safe and Healthy Summer

By Lynn M. Banker-Burns, HPCC Safety Committee Chairperson

Summer has finally arrived! It’s time for fresh air, fun in the sun, playing outside and having a ball. It is also time to be more vigilant about personal safety while enjoying the outdoors. Here are some safety tips to make your summer safe, relaxing and pleasurable. The full list of safety tips including bike, barbeque, pedestrian and child safety can be found on the HPCC website at www.hpccpgh.com.

The first thing to remember is if you see a suspicious person or notice an unusual situation around your house or that of a neighbor, call 911. The police prefer that you call and let them determine if there is an issue.

Here are a few recommendations from the Pittsburgh Police Department’s Burglary Unit:

- Never leave a patio door unlocked while away from home. Security experts recommend a security bar placed between the sliding door and the doorjamb. These bars are often referred to as “Charlie bars.” Don’t assume that the latch on the door is secure enough to ward off a thief. Lock the door at night as well to keep out unwanted guests.

- Always lock windows on the first floor or ground floor. This applies even if there is an enclosed or screened-in porch. It takes so little time and effort to cut through screen mesh and gain access to a home or apartment.

- Always secure windows and doors in the basement. It can be easy to forget about this area of the house during the summer months when we’re running in and out doing chores.

- Don’t forget to lock the windows in the garage too. If there is an entrance to the house through the garage, a thief can enter your residence while you are out tending to the garden or washing your car.

Bike Storage Safety Tips

Bike riding and warm weather are a natural combination. But if your bike is stolen, hiking will be more your speed over the next few months. Since this has been an issue in the past, here are a few tips to keep your property secured:

- The Pittsburgh Police suggests all bike owners engrave their bikes. It’s very simple to do. Officers say using the ID numbers from a driver’s license or Pennsylvania ID card is the best way to mark your bike. Never use a social security number as an ID number.

- Another suggestion from officers is when storing a bike in a shed or garage, lock and attach it to a lawn mower or other heavy and bulky equipment. Thieves do break into sheds and garages. Attaching a bike to a piece of heavy equipment makes it more difficult to just walk or ride away from the area.
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Street cleaning in the City runs from April 1st - November 30. Check the signage on your street for specific dates.
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The Highland Park Community Council has over 500 members who represent families, individuals and businesses within our community. The organization is an all-volunteer effort.

To join the HPCC, please go to our website and download an HPCC Membership Form. www.hpccpgh.com.

$5 First Year Introductory Membership
$10 Annual Senior Citizen or Low Income Family Membership
$25 Annual Membership