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The election is over and we once again have a city council person to represent Highland Park and the rest of District 7. I would like to extend hearty congratulations to our new city council representative, fellow Highland Parker Deb Gross, who has already begun to work on our behalf.

My sincere thanks to Patrick Dowd’s staff, who continued to hold down the fort after he resigned, and to Council President Darlene Harris, who went out of her way during Patrick’s absence to make sure our neighborhood’s interests were considered when something important was brought before her.

In order for council to do its job, they need to know where the neighborhoods stand on many issues. The HPCC takes on the majority of that role on your behalf, but you are always encouraged to reach out directly if you need assistance or want to voice your opinion. We will be sure to post Deb’s contact information on the HPCC website once she gets settled so you always have the information handy. She should be sworn into office at the beginning of December.

I would also like to offer congratulations to Bill Peduto, the new mayor of this fine city. There is no question - he is passionate about Pittsburgh.

I look forward to working with both of them.

Due to the City Council Candidates Forum taking place at our last monthly meeting, there are no October meeting minutes in this issue.

The November meeting was held last night, November 21st, at the Union Project. We had a full evening: Rob Collins of the Bryant Street Market was on hand to answer questions from the neighborhood concerning his beer-only liquor license application; Paul Svoboda and his associate Rebecca Schenck from the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh showed a presentation about East Liberty’s TRID planning and how it will affect some of the intersections surrounding Highland Park; Emily Keebler from the District 7 city council office and I reviewed some planned changes to the intersection at Bryant and N. Negley that are designed to make the intersection safer. The city plans to install curb extensions on Negley to narrow the road and in turn slow traffic. I will be sure to include more details on it in my December letter.

It is hard to believe the holiday season is upon us again. I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving full of family, friends and lots of stuffing!

Monica Watt
HPCC President
The third annual Highland Park Pottery Tour is planned for Saturday, December 7th from Noon to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - featuring the work of Keith Hershberger, Joseph Delphia, Jeff Guerrero, Jenna Vanden Brink, the Union Project Ceramics Co-op and others.

During the tour, the public is invited to visit the homes of four Highland Park potters and the Union Project Ceramics Co-op for refreshments and to admire and purchase handmade pottery by local artists.

For more information, visit the Tour’s website at highlandparkpotterytour.com.

Union Project Ceramics Cooperative seeks to assist emerging artists in growing and strengthening their creative process in a supportive, communal environment. By being a gathering of artists who create together in a shared space, energize one another, and collaborate, the co-op seeks to contribute to Union Project’s greater mission of using our space to bring people together to connect, create, and celebrate.
Zoo Fence Replacement Project Underway

By Tracy Gray

The construction work began in late October and is expected to be completed by the first week of December, weather depending. Sterling Contracting, a minority owned company, was chosen as the general contractor for the job. The project was funded through community development grants secured through various agencies.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium values its continuing partnerships with the Highland Park Community Council, Morningside Area Community Council and the City of Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium’s fence replacement and upgrade project along One Wild Place is almost complete. If you travel along One Wild Place, you may have noticed the addition and replacement of the brick columns, black ornament fencing, and new curbs along the outside perimeter of Kids Kingdom to the bend at the mural wall and to the Zoo’s B2 gate.

“Our goal was to continue the look that we had originally of the aesthetically appealing brick columns and black fencing,” says Frank Cartieri, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium Vice President and COO. “One Wild Place is one of the key entrances into Highland Park and we wanted to continue that natural looking segway into the park.”
November and December, as we sail from Fall to Winter and from Old Year to New, and in the Church, toward Advent and Christmas — and through it all we would wish all our neighbors a season of blessing and renewal, healing and mercy, hope and joy.

Bagpipes will resound through Highland Park on Sunday morning, November 24th, as 176-year-old St. Andrew’s Church will celebrate our patronal Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, welcoming the Pipe and Drum Band of the Syria Highlanders in our 11 a.m. service and for 15 minutes or so out in front of the church just before the service. Lots of fun!

The four weeks of Advent are certainly rich around the St. Andrew’s parish scatter. All are invited to what will be a lovely service of Choral Evensong for Advent, on Thursday evening, December 5, at 8 p.m. The evening will honor the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, and our diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dorsey W.M. McConnell, will preside in a traditional ceremony to name and invest a Child Bishop for the evening.

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 15, will be a wonderful day as well. At 11 a.m. our service will be given over to the great tradition, “A Children’s Pageant of Christmas.” If your kids would like to participate this year, please send our Church School Director, Liz Buchanan, a quick e-mail at churchschool@standrewspgh.org as soon as you can. At 3 p.m. on the afternoon of the 15th, the day continues with what has become truly one of the highlights of the season, as St. Andrew’s Parish Choir, Schola Cantorum, and Choristers join forces with readers from the parish and the wider neighborhood for the Festival of Lessons and Carols. All welcome — and if past experience is a guide, be sure to get here early for a good seat!
We will have two services on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, with the 4:30 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion to include the Blessing of the Creche, familiar carols, and the Rector’s Children’s Sermon. The Midnight Christ Mass begins by candlelight at 10:30 p.m. with Service of Music for harp, organ, and Choir, featuring guest-artist Sierra Pastel, and the Holy Communion following at about 11 p.m.

For those who prefer a quieter service, or who don’t care to venture out at night, a Christmas Morning service of Holy Communion will take place in the Chapel at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 25, with a cappella carols, followed by a Christmas Morning Coffee Hour.

Finally, on Monday evening, December 31, New Year’s Eve, we’ll gather at the Church at 11 p.m. for a brief musical program, followed by a service of Holy Communion — and then we’ll climb the tower and ring in New Year 2013 for the whole neighborhood on the Great Bell. A champagne (or non-alcoholic alternative) toast will follow.

St. Andrew’s, in the 5800 block of Hampton Street, has been in ministry in the heart of this neighborhood of Highland Park for over a century. If you have a pastoral concern we can help with — a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor who would appreciate a visit and a blessing, a family to comfort at the time of the death of a loved one — or if you simply would like to borrow a table, please feel free, whatever your religious background or heritage may be, to give our Church Office a call at 412-661-1245 — or to check us out on the web, standrewspgh.org. We’re always glad to hear from you, and to help if we can.
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