February 2014

Highland Park
Community Council Newsletter

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Okay, I have to confess. I have always liked snow. I get a giddy feeling like a small child when I see snow falling down from the sky. Every time. I suppose it started back in grade school when it meant school would be cancelled and we could sled ride all day. By the way, if you have never eaten a grilled peanut butter & jelly sandwich after a hard day of sled riding, you have not lived. As you can imagine, I have upgraded from PB&J to a hearty glass of red wine when I come in from the cold now, but it can be equally delightful.

I realize that the snow thing is a bit strange, but I have to admit, it is keeping me sane this winter.

I know everyone is looking forward to spring this year and if last weekend proves anything, keep your chin up - there are warmer days ahead!

Currently, my sights are set on May and June, the HPCC’s busiest months in the neighborhood, with the only exception possibly being August with Reservoir of Jazz every weekend.

First up this spring is the Highland Park House Tour. Our last house tour was held in 2007. We have received many requests to reinstate it over the past few years and I am proud to announce that is it officially scheduled for May 10th, the Saturday before Mother’s Day.

My husband John and I have had our home on the house tour two times so far. We had just moved to Highland Park and we were still completely under construction the first year we put it on the tour. Rooms were gutted and the place was a mess, but I thought it was important to show people that with a lot of love and effort, these big beautiful homes can be saved and savored.

The following time we were on the tour, most people came to see what progress we had made over the past years. I heard “remember me” more times than I could count - and I did remember them!

During the last tour, one of my high school girlfriends came through the front door, but had no idea she was walking into my house. My mom was the greeter - a perfect role for her social nature - and all I heard from the dining room was “Mrs. Roman, what are you doing here?” Imagine my friend’s surprise when she found out it was my house she had walked into. It was great fun!

The House Tour committee has lined-up a wonderfully diverse group of homes for the tour, but we are still in need of volunteers for the day. If you are interested, please let me know. We will have two shifts of volunteers at each home - 10:00am - 12:30pm and 12:30pm - 3:00pm. The biggest benefit to volunteering for a shift is that you get to tour the other homes for free the rest of the time!

I encourage everyone to join in the fun by volunteering to work the tour, buying tickets and taking the tour, cleaning up the street in front of your house or by standing on the corner playing a guitar - anything that brings the neighborhood to life and helps us showcase Highland Park to the rest of the city.

We still have a lot of big, beautiful homes that need love and care. What better way to encourage people to invest in them than by showing them how it can be done?

Monica Watt
HPCC President

The HPCC House Tour Committee meeting Sunday mornings at Tazza D’oro
HPCC January Meeting Minutes

By Bob Staresinic

Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with a quorum present.

Zone 5 Commander O’Connor passed out crime statistics for 2013, and updated the group on activities in the zone.

Grant Gittlen from the Mayor’s Community Affairs Office introduced himself. Representatives from this office are planning to attend community meetings throughout the City to keep good communication between the neighborhoods and the Mayor’s Office.

Elisabeth Larman from the Highland Park Garden Club spoke about the newly-formed group. Cleaning the garden areas of the Union Project was their first project, and they are planning to increase plantings around the neighborhood. They have named the Black-eyed Susan as the official Highland Park flower and will be encouraging everyone to plant them.

Deb Gross, our new District 7 City Council Representative, spoke about her office’s activity to get more of the City’s vacant land into private hands, a leash free dog park in Highland Park, the lower Heth’s Run planned improvements, and an eventual greenway between Downtown and Highland Park.

Kelly Vitti showed off the newly-designed t-shirts that are for sale to support the Bryant Street Festival in June. They are $15 each and can be purchased at the Bryant Street Market or by contacting Kelly at vittik@verizon.net.

Bonnie Spoales, Hampton Street resident, spoke about the parking situation around Fulton school. She is looking into permit parking in that area, due to the volume of vehicles related to the school staff. Dave Atkinson, HPCC VP, agreed to review the issue with the school.

Susan Ryan, Wellesley Ave. resident, spoke about the dangers of parking too close to intersections, as that can reduce visibility.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 20th at 7pm at Union Project. The Parks Conservancy will be on hand to help us review three (3) potential leash free dog run areas in the park and to review best practices for dog parks currently in use across the country.
I came across the following article in Bon Appetit and thought I would share it with you... The Foodist Predicts the Next Big Ingredients in 2014 is a top 10 look at the latest trends in the next year. Imagine my surprise when I saw Pittsburgh listed as #4!


The Next Big Food Town: Yes, Steel City is where you need to eat now. Like Houston, Charleston, and Nashville before it, Pittsburgh is elbowing its way onto the culinary map.

Here are four reasons why:

1. The East Liberty neighborhood, with its $52 million transit center and future Ace Hotel.
2. Farmers’ markets everywhere, including Farmers @ Firehouse in the Strip District.
4. Serious beer (The Brew Gentlemen) and cocktails (The Livermore, Butterjoint).
Applications are now being accepted for Spring 2014 Love Your Block Projects. This is a volunteer-fueled program that encourages groups to revitalize a block in their neighborhood using a $2,000 mini-grant provided by the Home Depot Foundation. Applications are due February 28! For more information go to www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock/

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Spring 2014
Love Your Block
Grants Due Friday

Parking Issues near Fulton

By Dave Atkinson, HPCC Vice-President

There was a discussion at the January HPCC meeting about congested parking around Hampton and North St Clair. Both Fulton and St. Andrew’s have been undergoing construction projects, which are exacerbating the issue. Not only have trailers and dumpsters taken up parking spaces, but contractors, sub-contractors, workers and delivery people have been using parking spaces as well. Both projects should be completed by the end of May, which will greatly ease the parking situation in the area. Please be patient.

The city was also approached by some residents near that intersection who have requested that they implement a Residential Parking Permit Program (RPPP). A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, at Fulton Elementary School at 6:30 p.m. (Enter through the cafeteria door off N. St. Clair Street.) At this meeting there will be a presentation on the operation of RPPP followed by a discussion on the program. This is the first step of a lengthy designation process. The next step is an informational community meeting to discuss the program and identify which streets, if any, wish to be included in RPPP.

Your attendance is encouraged if you live near Fulton and St. Andrew’s.
Ah, a frosty winter indeed in Highland Park!

We endure sub-zero snow days and ice-covered sidewalks, but the Pirates are on the field in Bradenton and spring can’t be too far behind.

We’re continuing through this winter of 2014 with a generational renovation of our lovely and historic St. Andrew’s Church. It’s an inconvenience now, but the old and deteriorated flooring in the church has now been replaced with red oak and quarry tile and a secure substructure of support. A new, attractive Parish Hall entry is being constructed and is now nearing completion, with an elevator for three-floor accessibility and wheelchair-accessible restrooms. And it is so exciting to see the former St. Andrew’s Nursery School in the lower floor of the Parish House now under renovation as a new community meeting space. We should be all set with that project, and so with our year of construction, by early summer! Short-term disruption for us and for the many in the neighborhood who make such good use of Old St. Andrew’s, no question - but with the promise of great new possibilities now for years to come. Thanks to all for your patience and support.

As we move into Lent, 2014, our Sunday worship schedule continues to offer two services of the Holy Communion each Sunday, a simple service at 9:00 a.m. and a choral service at 11 a.m., with the note that the 11 a.m. service on the second Sunday of each month is Choral Morning Prayer. Nursery Care is available each Sunday from 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., temporarily located in the downstairs parlor of the Old Rectory, Church School programs for Children and Youth and Adult Bible Study continue (also relocated to rooms in the Old Rectory) Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m., and we continue to have a Children’s Chapel program offered during a portion of the 11:00 a.m. service. Choral Evensong continues to be offered as well, on the “First Thursday Evening of Each Month,” at 8 p.m., followed by a musical recital, and on the “Third Sunday Afternoon of Each Month,” with Guest Preacher.

At the beginning of March we’ll be heading into Lent on the Church Calendar. Since our Brooks Hall and kitchen won’t be available, we’re very glad to be hosting an “on the road” Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Mardi Gras Party on Tuesday evening, March 4th, in collaboration with our Mission Partner friends of St. James Episcopal Church, 11524 Frankstown Road, in the Penn Hills. Pancakes, etc., will be served from 6-7 p.m., with games and the traditional crowning of the King and Queen of Mardi Gras. Highland Park neighbors are indeed warmly invited to hop in the car and drive on over to join us there.
Ash Wednesday services at St. Andrew’s, to mark the beginning of what we pray will be a good and holy Lent, will include the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday, Imposition of Ashes, and Holy Communion, on Wednesday morning, March 5th, at 7:15 a.m. (in the St. Andrew’s Chapel) and at 12 Noon and 8 p.m. in the Church.

In addition to Sunday services, the St. Andrew’s parish family continues through these winter months with a rich schedule of social and educational activities for all ages. Our Choir, Choristers, and Troubadours, all under the direction of our Organist and Choirmaster - and Highland Park neighbor - Peter Luley, offers opportunities for learning and expression and participation in choral worship in the rich Anglican sacred music for children, youth, and adults. Our highly regarded Children’s “Godly Play” and “Tween” and Youth Group programs - under the direction of our Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Highland Park neighbor Joan Soulliere - enrich the Christian life and formation of our families. And our midweek services and adult Bible Studies, lectures, and special programs all continue. Things are a-jumble in the buildings, but it’s the people that make it happen, and we’re going to have a great spring.

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 (once the workers are finished later this spring) 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, check us out on the web at www.standrewspgh.org, and “Like” us on Facebook.

### Sunday Morning Services
9 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Chapel
11 a.m. Choral Holy Communion
(Choral Morning Prayer on the 2nd Sunday of the month)
Nursery Care, 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Adult Bible Study, Church School and Youth Programs, Sunday Mornings, 9:45 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.
HPCC Officers
President
Monica Watt (412) 980-4208
Vice President
Dave Atkinson
Treasurer
Paul Miller (412) 365-0675
Secretary
Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

HPCC Directors
Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533
Glen Schultz
Laura Smith
Vernon Simmons
Janine Seale
Christine Adams
Kelly Vitti
Andrew Brooks
Jake Pawlak

HPCC Committees
Beautification - Nancy Levine-Arnold
Children’s Events - Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533
Education - Dave Atkinson
House Tour - housetour@highlandparkpa.com
Finance - Glen Schultz
Membership - Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331
newsletter@highlandparkpa.com
Nominating - Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972
Public Safety - Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863
public-safety@highlandparkpa.com
Reservoir of Jazz - Tania Grubbs
Super Playground -
Monica Watt (412) 361-7902 &
Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366
Yard Sale - Paul Miller (412) 365-0675
Welcoming - Janine Seale
Zoning - Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742
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