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HPCC Fourth of July Kids’ Bike Parade
One sure sign of summer in Highland Park is the annual HPCC Fourth of July kids' bike parade. As you can see from the cover image, the Children's Committee had beautiful weather and a great turnout!

Next on the HPCC calendar is Reservoir of Jazz every Sunday evening in August. These free concerts are fun for the whole family. The Children's Committee will have crafts for the kids and parents can enjoy an amazing line-up this year thanks to our very own jazz musician Tania Gubbs, who coordinates the entire event. Read more about each weekend’s performer in this newsletter.

I would like to share a story with you that happened recently as many of your neighbors will be walking to the park to enjoy these performances, possibly using the sidewalk in front of your home.

My dear mother, Connie, recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She drove to Highland Park from Beaver Falls looking forward to her birthday dinner at E2 with my brother and I. She arrived at my house a little early and decided to walk up to the coffee shop to kill some time until I arrived home from work. She walks a mile a few times a week on an outdoor track at home so the few blocks from my house on N. Highland to the coffee shop should have been a breeze. Sadly they were not.

As my mother was walking near Hampton Street, she tripped on a sidewalk that had lifted a few inches on one end from tree roots underneath. As you can imagine, she fell forward and landed with her face and forehead taking the brunt of the impact.

The physical damage was obvious immediately when I arrived home a few minutes later. Instead of enjoying a delightful meal at one of her favorite restaurants, we spent the weekend talking to doctors, spending quality time together in the emergency room while we waited for CT scan results and waking her every few hours as she slept to make sure the concussion she received did not take a turn for the worse.

I am happy to report weeks later that she is healing well, but the experience has taken a toll on all of us.

I only share this story with you to make you understand how a lifted or uneven sidewalk can greatly impact someone’s life.

It is each homeowner’s responsibility to keep their sidewalk in good condition. In many cases it is the trees that are planted in the sidewalks near the curb that cause the sidewalk to lift and become a tripping hazard. Through this process, I was surprised to learn that the trees are City property and the Forestry Division is responsible for maintaining and caring for them. There is a process in place to have the tree assessed and if necessary, the roots trimmed so the sidewalk can be reset or repoured and safety restored.

I urge you to check your sidewalks – on every side of you home – and make sure they are safe. I would hate for another family to go through what we went through.

If the roots from a City tree have caused your sidewalk to lift or break, you may be eligible for some reimbursement from the City. I have included a list of steps that you should take before you begin repairs and then submit a request for reimbursement.

I look forward to seeing you at Reservoir of Jazz.

Monica Watt
HPCC President
Procedures for Reimbursement for Sidewalk Damage Resulting from City Tree Roots

1. The homeowner should first contact Forestry Division at (412) 665-3625. Someone will come out to the residence and measure the amount of damage to the sidewalk that can be attributed to the tree roots.

2. Forestry will send the homeowner a card after the measurement has been made notifying them that measurement has been completed and will further state whether the tree(s) will be root pruned or removed from the location.

3. The homeowner’s contractor or homeowner must file for a sidewalk permit with the Department of Public Works, Permit Counter, 611 Second Avenue, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, 15219. (412) 255-2737. There is a fee of $30.00 for this permit.

4. Once the homeowner receives notification that the measurement has been made by Forestry Division personnel, and the sidewalk permit has been obtained from Public Works, they can then have the sidewalk removed.

5. As soon as possible after the sidewalk has been removed, the homeowner should then contact Forestry Division again to schedule them to perform the necessary maintenance on the City trees.

6. Once Forestry performs the maintenance on the trees, the new sidewalk can then be poured.

7. The City will reimburse the homeowner for the portion of the sidewalk damaged as a result of the tree roots in the amount of $4.00 per square foot, based upon Forestry Division’s measurements.

The homeowner should submit a completed Report of Claim Form to the Law Department, along with a copy of the sidewalk permit (or permit number) from Public Works and a paid bill (or 2 estimates), for repair to the sidewalk. The City of Pittsburgh will not issue payment until a copy of the sidewalk permit or the permit number has been provided to the Claims Division.

The information should be mailed to the following:
CITY OF PITTSBURGH
DEPARTMENT OF LAW, CLAIMS DIVISION
313 CITY-COUNTY BUILDING
414 GRANT STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

Any additional questions or concerns can be directed to the Claims Division at (412) 255-2031.
Melissa Jenkins from Green Rock Fitness and Kimberly Musial from the Yoga Hive spoke about health and fitness in the neighborhood. Grant Gittlen from the Mayor’s Office announced that community input is needed at several upcoming meetings to help the Mayor appoint a new police chief. There is a meeting at the Kingsley Association on July 8th where everyone can be involved in a conversation on what the residents want in a police chief.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next HPCC meeting is Thursday, August 21, at Union Project. The speaker will be from the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC). They will give an update on the Bryant Street development and their other good works in the neighborhood.
In what one attendee described as one of the most beloved traditions in Highland Park, more than 50 children began their July 4th holiday by decorating their bicycle, tricycle or wagon and parading around the fountain in Highland Park. Children aged one to 12 took part in the parade.

Each year, the Highland Park Community Council provides decorations such as balloons, streamers and American flags for children to adorn their bicycles. Red, white and blue necklaces and sunglasses are also available for the kids to decorate themselves.

More than one out-of-town guest said they were going to look into starting a similar bike decorating tradition back home and grandparents who escorted their grandchildren to the parade commented that the parade reminded them of their childhood and were thrilled that the Highland Park neighborhood provided such good, old-fashioned fun and memories for the kids to cherish.

The Children’s Committee is headed by Teri Rucker. Look for her at the kids’ craft table the Reservoir of Jazz, where kids of all ages can be entertained while their parents enjoy the concert. Donated craft supplies and ideas for craft projects are always welcome. She can be reached at 412-482-2533.

Photos by Seth Adams
Greetings Neighbors!

The HPCC & Pittsburgh Citiparks are so excited about this year’s line-up for the Reservoir of Jazz!

This year there are five Sundays in August - all scheduled for your listening pleasure starting Sunday Aug. 3rd with one of Pittsburgh’s finest jazz vocalists Maureen Budway. Maureen has a brilliant command of her amazing instrument and engages the audience with her knowledge of literature and love of the music.

Aug. 10th
features “Salsamba Latin Jazz Group”, led by guitarist Eric Susoeff. This group has performed together for more than 25 years fusing authentic Latin-American rhythms with the harmonies and melodic sophistication of contemporary American jazz.

Aug. 17th,
Dr. Alton Merrell & Impact “A Gospel Jazz Experience” promises to be an uplifting, musically spiritual evening. The group consists of a combination of instrumental and vocal ensemble combining diverse musical styles including gospel, jazz, classical, funk and rhythm & blues.

By Tania Grubbs
Aug. 24th
will be an evening of lots and lots of horns! Performed by the “Horn Guys”, the music is funky, with a little fusion, jazz and pop… toe tappin’ happy dancin’ fun!

Aug. 31th,
“Cross Currents” will entertain on the lawn. They play a regularly Wednesday night session at Tana Ethiopian Restaurant in East Liberty and are a wonderful combination of talented musicians who have a little bit of everything - smooth jazz, R&B, funk approach - and play extremely well together.

For more information about the Reservoir of Jazz Concert Series, call 412-255-2493 or go to pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/reservoir-jazz.

Note: Inclement weather may cause concert cancellations. In the event of concert cancellations, a recorded message will play on the concert hotline (412-255-2493) and a message will appear at the top of the website page.

Sponsored by BNY Mellon, Highland Park Community Council and ARAD.

Tania Grubbs
HPCC ROJ Chairperson
St. Andrew’s with our Choir, Choristers, and Troubadours offering opportunities for learning and expression in sacred music for children, youth, and adults, and our highly regarded Children’s “Godly Play” and “Tween” and Youth Group programs, our midweek services and adult Bible Studies, etc., will all resume our regular fall schedule on what we’re calling “Renaissance Sunday,” this year: September 7- a day traditionally celebrated with a Parish Picnic in the Hampton Street Churchyard. There will be special food, entertainment, and lots of fun activities for all ages this year as Bishop McConnell joins us to “cut the ribbon” and officially re-open the renewed St. Andrew’s Parish House for the congregation and the community. All are invited!

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, check us out on the web at www.standrewspgh.org.

AROUND ST. ANDREW’S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

Sunday services at St. Andrew’s during June, July and August follow a summer schedule, with one service 10 a.m. (The regular 9 a.m. / 11 a.m. schedule resumes on the first Sunday of September.) Cool refreshments and conversation follow each service.

While our Choir is taking a bit of a summer break, the services each Sunday will include the singing of service music and hymns and musical offerings by a variety of vocal soloists, choral ensembles, and instrumentalists. During the summer as well our children’s programs are on a bit of a break, but on occasional Sundays schedule a Children’s Chapel during a portion of the service hour. Nursery Care is always available for infants and younger children.
The Highland Park Garden Club (HPGC) invites everyone to the exciting tours planned over the next couple months!

 Millennials, July 26th, at 10:00 am, we will tour the Mellon Gardens at Phipps Garden Center. This tour is free for members, and $5 for non-members. Meet at the Garden Center at 1059 Shady Avenue by 9:50 am. All are welcome.

 On Saturday, August 30th, we will tour a couple local vegetable gardens. We'll see different veggies and design decisions, then have a short how-to about seed saving. Everyone will go home with a treat! Members and non-members attend for free. For updates on location & time, email me at rkudrick@live.com.

 We will have an exciting and rare tour of the River Garden near Lock & Dam #2 on Saturday, September 20th. Light refreshments will be served. Though free for members, there is a cost of $5 for non-members. Meet there at 9:45 am. Reach the garden via a left turn from Allegheny River Blvd outbound at Washington Boulevard. There is a bronze eagle at the entrance.

 We hope to see you all at these events! (If you are interested in joining the HPGC, dues are $15 annually and include all kinds of neat activities, tours and classes!)
Check Us Out!
www.hpccpgh.com

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