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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
As I sat down to write my November newsletter article, I began to wonder how and when the Thanksgiving holiday was created hoping it would inspire me. I looked at many websites and was surprised to learn that such a quiet, reflective holiday has been a point of contention over the years. I have included below some highlights that I found interesting.

During George Washington’s first term as the first president in 1789, he called for an official “day of public thanksgiving and prayer.” Congress agreed to Washington’s request, but the holiday did not become an annual event.

Thomas Jefferson, our third president, felt that public demonstrations of piety to a higher power, like Thanksgiving, were inappropriate based in part on the separation of church and state. Subsequent presidents agreed with him until President Lincoln declared it a holiday in 1863.

Sarah Josepha Hale, a 74-year-old magazine editor for Godey’s Lady’s Book, had long campaigned to create an official annual Thanksgiving Day. Prior to this, each state had its own Thanksgiving holiday on different days, mainly confined to the Northern states. Her letter to President Lincoln on September 28, 1863 worked. It took her 36/40 years (depending on which site you are on) to convince a President to do so.
As with many of Lincoln’s decisions during the civil war, he was attempting to bring the nation together. In his Proclamation, he requested that all Americans ask God to “commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife” and to “heal the wounds of the nation.”

According to an April 1, 1864 letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln’s secretaries, the Proclamation was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. A year later the original manuscript was sold to benefit Union troops.

Lincoln chose the final Thursday in November for Thanksgiving, and it was celebrated on that day every year until 1939, until Franklin D. Roosevelt, in an attempt to expand Christmas retail sales during the Great Depression, moved the holiday up a week. Roosevelt’s change was met with pronounced opposition and in 1941 he reluctantly signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November permanently.

Looking back, I think they should have also included wording in that bill about Christmas music not being allowed until after the Thanksgiving holiday has passed.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Monica gave an update on the dog park/off-lease exercise area. The City has all of the information that has been gathered from the surveys and meetings held. They are evaluating the information and developing official city criteria for off-leash exercise areas. An in-person survey was conducted with all the residents of Stanton Avenue across from the proposed area, and the main concerns were traffic and parking. She is still awaiting DPW’s final decision.

Monica also reported on the HPCC traffic study that included the Bryant St. and N. Negley Ave. intersection. Sidewalk bump-outs were initially suggested by the city, but later found to not be financially feasible. DPW instead plans the painting of the bump-outs on the street along with surface mount guide posts to slow traffic and increase pedestrian safety.

The Board voted on the 2014-2015 budget, as recommended by the Finance Committee. The budget passed with 8 Yes votes and none opposed or abstaining.

The election of the new Board members and Officers was held. The existing officers of Monica Watt (President), David Atkinson (Vice President), Paul Miller (Treasurer) and Bob Staresinic (Secretary) were elected to a one-year term. James McAdams, Nell Gladson and Amber Quick were elected to 3-year terms of Board Director.

Bruce Robison, Pastor of St. Andrews, spoke about the 18-month capital investment project to renovate and update the property to increase accessibility and for better use of the space, including 2 large meeting rooms.

Glen Schultz, Finance Committee Chair, discussed the investment policy that is being developed for the HPCC. The Board will be reviewing and voting on the policy within the next month.

The program this month was a panel discussing education issues in the City. The panel included: Dr. Regina Holley, School Board Representative; Melvin Hubbard El from State Representative Ed Gainey’s office; Karen Arnold, Pittsburgh Fulton Principal; Jeffrey Dorsey, Executive Director of the Union Project; Charles Howell, representing Mt. Ararat Church and their mentoring programs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next HPCC meeting is at 7:00 pm on January 15th at St Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton Street.
Teresa Isadora of CCAC and former Carnegie Library librarian will explore the history of East Liberty from its beginnings in the late 1700s, growth through the 1950s, decline of the 1960s and current revival. It will highlight prominent community organizations and notable personalities of the community.

Snow Angels matches neighbors with neighbors to shovel the walks of those who are unable to do this on their own. Volunteers impact lives in our community by ensuring our more vulnerable neighbors continue to have access to essential services such as home-delivered meals and medications during the harsh winter months.

We invite any resident of Allegheny County who is able to shovel snow to volunteer. Those under the age of 18 must sign up with an adult. If you have questions, email manager@alleghenysnowangels.org or call 412-863-5939.

www.alleghenysnowangels.org

Become a SNOW ANGEL Today!
he Girls Scouts of America organization is structured so that as the Girl Scouts grow up and mature they are presented with a natural progression and different challenges and opportunities. Junior Girl Scouts can choose as a Troop to work towards and earn the Bronze Award, which is the highest award for Junior Girl Scouts. Cadette Girl Scouts, grades 6, 7, and 8, can elect to work individually or as a small team towards earning the Silver Award. Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts have the opportunity to earn the Gold Award. All of these awards focus on identifying a community need, developing leadership, responsibility, organizational skills and determination. The girls network, form partnerships with outside organizations and meet leaders and advisors in their field of interest. The requirements become more rigorous and complex as the girls grow older.

A few of the girls in Girl Scout Cadette Troop 54281, meeting at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, have chosen to pursue the Silver Award. I asked the girls to write a paragraph about their project for the Highland Park Community Council newsletter and received the following submissions describing their projects and inviting the community to share in learning about important causes and develop new skills. Please support your local Girl Scouts by joining them in these great FREE learning opportunities!
Maeve Denshaw

Pet First Aid

Hello, my name is Maeve Denshaw, and I am now in my seventh year of Girl Scouts. I am working on my Silver Award, one of the highest awards a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. I am teaching pet first aid because most people do not know about basic wound and burn care for their dog or cat. I will also teach how to recognize and treat hypothermia and hyperthermia.

I plan on holding two classes, both to be held at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church on Hampton Street in Highland Park. The first class will be held on Sunday, Dec 7, 2014 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The second class will be held Wednesday, February 4, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

I will be teaching people of all ages basic pet first aid, and other useful tips to help take care of your pet. I will also show how to make healthy treats and toys for cats and dogs. I am being sponsored by Veterinarian, Dr. Caroline Simard from Point Breeze Veterinary. Space is limited, so please register ahead of time by emailing or calling my mom at joansoulliere@gmail.com or 412-726-2415.

Thank you, and I hope to see all sorts of dog and cat lovers!

Maighread Southard-Wray

Elephant Conservation

The human race has coveted ivory for hundreds of years. In the 1400s explorers wiped out entire populations of elephants for their tusks, before moving on to another part of Africa to continue to hunt for the ivory that they wanted so much. Currently, elephants are being poached at a rapidly growing rate. An average of 96 elephants are killed every day. Because few people know about this crisis, I decided to raise awareness about elephant conservation for my Girl Scout Silver Award.

On December 13 at noon, I will be having an educational event at the East Liberty library for teens and older children. There will be a brief talk about conservation and information about how people can help, even though Pittsburgh has no wild elephants. Following the talk there will be a viewing of Elefamilia, a film about the 2008 births of two elephants into the herd at the Pittsburgh zoo. All are welcome.
The fourth annual Highland Park Pottery Tour is Saturday and Sunday, December 13 & 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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 view and purchase handmade pottery by local artists.
Joseph Delphia with guest artists Scott Cornish and Gerry Dinnen
Address: 5505 Avondale Pl

Jeff Guerrero with guest artist Chelsey Albert
Address: 716 N. Sheridan Ave. Apt 2

Keith Hershberger with guest artists Adam Conway and Amanda Wolf
Address: 5511 Avondale Place

Jenna Vanden Brink with guest artists Marko Biddle and Kyle Houser
Address: 5800 Wellesley Ave

Union Project Ceramic Co-op artists Molly Bee, Mary Briggs, Ben Dames, Christina Hyland, Carina Kooiman, Araina Marsden and Gloria Tsang
Address: 801 N. Negley Ave.

For more information contact Jenna Vanden Brink at jenna@unionproject.com or 412.363.4550.
November and December, as we sail from Fall to Winter and from Old Year to New, and in the Church, toward Advent and Christmas—through it all we would wish all our neighbors a season of blessing and renewal, healing and mercy, hope and joy.

The four weeks of Advent are always 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 4, at 8 p.m. The evening will honor the Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra, and the service that evening will be followed by a brief recital featuring soprano Amy Stabnau, and by a festive seasonal reception.

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 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 4:30 p.m. on the afternoon of the 16th 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, followed by High Tea in our newly renovated Brooks Hall. All welcome - and if past experience is a guide, be sure to get here early for a good seat!
The neighborhood sing-along, “Carols in the Churchyard,” will once again take place around the bonfire. Join us at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening, December 16. Bundle up and bring a flashlight! Cocoa and cookies after, in Brooks Hall.

We will have two services on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 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 traditional Midnight Service begins by candlelight at 10:30 p.m. with Service of Music for harp, organ, and choir, featuring guest-artist Sierra Pastel, and with a choral service of 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 Thursday, December 25, with a capella carols, followed by a Christmas Morning Coffee Hour.

Finally, looking ahead: on Wednesday evening, December 31, New Year’s Eve, we’ll gather at the Church at 11 p.m. for an organ recital featuring our Associate Organist, Mr. Ethan LaPlaca, followed by a service of Holy Communion - and then we’ll climb the tower and ring in New Year 2015 for the whole neighborhood on the Great Bell. A champagne (or non-alcoholic alternative) toast will follow.
Check Us Out!

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fax: 412.441.5678

Mike Fiore
Owner

Check the status of your car at
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e-mail: fiore2001@aol.com

We Get Homes Sold!
2 Heads are Better than 1
Contact Us... We Are Available!!

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