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A Letter from the President

With the warm weather comes a lighter step and broader smile. Thank goodness April is here!

We have some fun things planned in the neighborhood for April and early May. First up is a FREE screening of Highland Parker Mark Dixon’s documentary on Rachel Carson on April 16 that St. Andrew’s. Rachel Carson was a fascinating woman who worked long and hard to educate people about and protect our environment. You can read more about her and how the documentary came to be on page 3 of the newsletter.

In celebration of the Pittsburgh Marathon on May 3rd, the HPCC is hosting two marathon events:

A family-friendly Pittsburgh Marathon Kick-off Party on Friday, May 1 at the Park Place Pub on Bryant Street. Weather permitting, we will take over the back deck and spend a few hours with our friends from the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse making signs to cheer the runners up on Sunday.

On Marathon Sunday, we will be out in force with our freshly made signs to cheer on the runners as they go up N. Highland and turn left onto Bryant Street. Spectators will enjoy the sounds of Hill Jordan & Slide Worldwide and are welcome to indulge in our free donuts and juice as long as they last.

If you are asking yourself if it makes a difference to the runners if you are out there that morning, imagine yourself running 20 miles and how much a friendly face, a sign made with love or kind shout-out would impact your mood.

I want to thank Jessica Bowser and Dan Gorchynsky for all of their efforts to make this year’s marathon weekend extra special in Highland Park.

Monica Watt
HPCC President

“When proud-pied April dress’d in all his trim
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything…”

William Shakespeare, Sonnet 98
Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with a quorum present.

The new Zone 5 Commander, Jason Lando, introduced himself and spoke about changes he is planning to make. He is creating an email list to send information and updates to anyone in the community who is interested in receiving those. A second community resource officer is assigned to the zone, along with a community response car to assist with handling community complaints.

Jessica, who is organizing the neighborhood party for the Pittsburgh Marathon on Sunday, May 3rd spoke about her plans for bands and activities on Bryant St. and N. Highland Ave. in addition to a kickoff party on Friday, May 1st.

Monica Watt spoke about the off-leash exercise area (OLEA) for dogs. The location has changed to Hawthorne Grove across the street from the pool. Planning is just beginning on this new location, but the City and Parks Conservancy feel this would be a suitable location. A motion was made and duly seconded to support this new location for the OLEA, with 36 votes For and 3 Abstaining.

Nate and Brenton from City Councilwoman Deb Gross’ office spoke about the latest pothole blitz and repainting yellow on corner curbs. If you have a pothole to report, or a curb that needs to be repainted, contact 311 and also Deb Gross’ office. You need to give the specific address for the City to be able to act on your request.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next HPCC meeting is Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m. at St Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton Street. Highland Parker Mark Dixon will be showing his documentary on Rachel Carson.
I moved to Highland Park in 2010, shortly after which you may have seen my “YERT.com” car parked around the neighborhood. Some people call me “The YERT Guy.”

“YERT” stands for Your Environmental Road Trip (YERT.com), an environmental documentary I like to say “isn’t depressing” - but that’s not why I’m writing. I’m writing because I recently released another documentary, this one focused on the life of Rachel Carson. And I’m delighted to personally screen it for you in Highland Park on April 16th at the monthly HPCC meeting.


Rachel Carson did not grow up in Highland Park, but she is a local hero nonetheless. Carson spent her childhood just up the river in Springdale before moving on to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Her bestselling book, The Sea Around Us, was released in 1951 and pushed her into the public eye. Carson’s widely recognized talent as a writer, combined with her deep knowledge of the natural world, made her a potent advocate for the use of precaution when working with biological systems. She put her popularity and skill to the test with the release of Silent Spring in 1962, awakening the environmental consciousness of America with poignant words of caution in the face of rapidly advancing scientific progress.

My film, The Power of One Voice, was created in collaboration with Patricia DeMarco (the film’s executive producer and Rachel Carson expert) and supported by the Steeltown Entertainment Project. Perfect for classrooms and community events, the film pulls insights from a variety of speakers at a 50-year anniversary celebration of Silent Spring held at Chatham University and The National Aviary on May 11-12, 2012. Carson’s adopted son, Roger Christie, her biographer, Linda Lear, and other notable writers, scientists and advocates reflect on the impact and lessons learned from her life and work.

We held the film’s sold-out Pittsburgh Premiere at the National Aviary, and it was recently featured by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for Women’s History Month.

Today, Rachel Carson stands as a role model and inspiration for people across the globe. Patricia and I hope that, by highlighting the power of Carson’s voice, we may inspire others to add their voices to this essential conversation. For more information on how to set-up a screening or to purchase the documentary visit powerofonevoicefilm.com.
The DICK’S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon is sold out this year with over 30,000 participants flocking to Pittsburgh, setting an event attendance record. The Highland Park Community Council has some family fun planned so everyone can enjoy the marathon.

Bryant Street is mile marker 20 in the race and the runners need your support and encouragement to help them finish the final leg of their journey.

**Kick-off & Cheering Section Sign-Making Party**

**WHEN:** Friday, May 1st from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Park Place Pub & Applewood Smoke Burger Company, Bryant Street

Join us for a family-friendly Pittsburgh Marathon Kick-off Party on Friday, May 1 at the Park Place Pub. The Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse will be at the event from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. to help race-lovers of all ages make signs to cheer on runners during the big race on Sunday. Enjoy music, marathon memories and good eats with your Highland Park neighbors.

Everyone who makes a sign will be entered into a raffle to win prizes from local businesses. Drawing will take place Sunday, May 3rd - You do not have to be present to claim prize.

**“Cheer on the Marathon” Cheering Section**

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 3, 2015 from 7:30 am – Noon

**WHERE:** The corner of N. Highland Ave & Bryant Street

Bring your colorful signs, noise-makers and shouts of encouragement on Sunday, May 3rd from 8:00 a.m. - Noon to cheer on Pittsburgh Marathon runners as they hit the 20 mile mark passing through Highland Park. Racers will enter from the corner of N. Highland Avenue and Bryant Street and run along Bryant Street to N. Negley Avenue.

Don’t have a sign or noise maker? No problem! Sign making supplies and noise makers will be provided, courtesy of Pittsburgh Marathon. Everyone who makes a sign will be entered into a raffle to win prizes from local businesses.

Enjoy race-day specials from local restaurants, live music by Hill Jordan & Slide Worldwide and free donuts and juice to kick start your morning! *(While supplies last.)*

A special thanks to our Highland Park partnering businesses: Applewood Smoke Burger Company, Bryant Street Market, Park Place Pub and Tazza D’oro.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED –
Help Make the Highland Park Entrance Gardens Beautiful

By Nancy Schultz

Spring is finally here and we can begin to see all the wonderful flowers in the Highland Park Entrance Gardens peeking their little heads through the soil. Like any garden, with those pretty little flowers also come those not so pretty weeds.

As you can imagine, the flower beds require many hours of work to keep them looking beautiful. The City of Pittsburgh provides basic maintenance: mowing, trash and litter removal, collecting leaves, etc. But, the beautifying is up to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and volunteers from the neighborhood.

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy provides and plants the flowers. They also mulch and weed the beds. It is an enormous job and they need our help to keep the gardens in good condition for everyone to enjoy. That is how Weeding Wednesdays began. Every other Wednesday evening throughout the warmer months from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Angela Yuele, from the PPC and our Highland Park gardening wizard, is there to guide us through the task of weeding and answer any questions that may arise.

We are looking for volunteers to help with weeding. While we are there from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. every other Wednesday you need not feel obligated to stay the entire time. Even a few minutes of extra hands helps tremendously.

Please add the following dates to your calendar and join us when you can:

Weeding Wednesdays
May 6 & 20
June 3 & 17
July 1, 15, & 29
August 12 & 26
September 9 & 23

I hope to see you there.

Nancy Schultz
Nancyschultz13@gmail.com
The Bucs are playing ball, winter gives way to Spring — and we move on from Lent to Eastertide. Blessings in the season!

A special invitation in this month to services of Choral Evensong sung by St. Andrew’s Schola Cantorum on Sunday, April 19, at 4:30 p.m., with our Highland Park neighbor and good friend the Rev. B.J. Woodworth of The Open Door: A Missional Church Community, as Guest Preacher. The St. Andrew’s Parish Choir will sing Evensong on Thursday, May 7, at 8 p.m., followed by a musical recital featuring Nathan Carterette, piano — and then a festive springtime reception will take place in Brooks Hall.

A reminder that Sunday, May 3, will be the annual Pittsburgh Marathon. For those of the parish and neighborhood who may be running in one of the Marathon Day events, or volunteering, or cheering for friends and family, or simply hoping to avoid Sunday morning traffic adventures, an additional, simple service of Holy Communion will be offered that weekend at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 2. (Sunday morning services for non-runners who can find their way to Highland Park will continue at the usual times of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.) On this sometimes more ecumenical weekend of services we are reminded that all baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church.

Saturday, May 2, is also the date of our annual St. Andrew’s Choir fundraiser, “Pub Night,” beginning at 6 p.m. and featuring music, fun, follies, and traditional pub fare. Tickets go quickly, so be sure to call the Church Office ASAP to get your order in!

St. Andrew’s, in the 5800 block of Hampton Street, has been at the heart of this neighborhood of Highland Park for over a century now. 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 or find some space for a family gathering too large for your living room, please feel free to give our Church Office a call at (412) 661-1245 or check us on the web at www.standrewspgh.org.

We’re always glad to hear from you.
The City’s Street Sweeping Program begins April 1 and ends November 30, dependent upon weather conditions. Please check the Street Cleaning signs on your block for specific date and time.

Reminder

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 Committees
Beautification - Nancy Levine
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 - Monica Watt (412) 980-4208
note@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) 980-4208 & Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366
Yard Sale - Paul Miller (412) 365-0675
Welcoming - Janine Seale
Zoning - Jake Pawlak

HPCC Directors
Vernon Simmons
Janine Seale
Christine Adams
Kelly Vitti
Andrew Brooks
Jake Pawlak
James McAdams
Nell Gladson
Amber Quick
We Get Homes Sold!
2 Heads are Better than 1
Contact Us…We Are Available!!

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