IN THIS ISSUE:

2 A Letter from the President

3 April Meeting Minutes

4 An Update from the Highland Park Community Development Corporation

5 Annual Fulton K-5 School Tour

6 The Great Highland Park Yard Sale & Bryant Street Festival

7 Zone 5 Open House Planned

8 Cover Story: A Glimpse Into the Past

10 Around St. Andrew’s

Springtime in Highland Park depicted in a vintage postcard.
Welcome to the Highland Park Community Council (HPCC) May mass mailing to the neighborhood! We put out 10 issues of this newsletter throughout the year, but only one of them is mailed to every home in Highland Park. The other nine issues are sent out to the HPCC ListServ, a moderated group email list of 2300+ email addresses. You can also sign up to receive the newsletter directly in your inbox on our website www.hpccpgh.org. A link to the newsletter is sent out each time one is posted.

The HPCC is run completely by neighborhood volunteers and 100% of all membership fees and donations are used to support Highland Park.

2014 was an important year for the organization. We received 501(c)(3) status from the federal government, opening up many new opportunities. From an operational standpoint, it reduces our postage costs significantly and allows us to qualify for lower fees for website hosting and online membership payment. It also means that your donations are now tax deductible.

We also held our first Love Your Home event this year. We have big beautiful homes in the neighborhood that require continuous love and maintenance. Our goal was to connect homeowners with experienced craftsman and real estate experts and give them the opportunity to ask questions and build relationships. The event also gave homeowners a chance to meet one on one with various City departments such as forestry and permitting, and set-up private consultations with designers, architects and landscape architects, all free of charge.

The HPCC also takes on projects that are important to the neighborhood such as working with the City and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to identify an appropriate location in Highland Park for an off-leash exercise area (OLEA) for dogs.

We also sponsor many annual neighborhood events such as:

- Bryant Street Festival - Held the first Sunday in June from 12 noon til 5 p.m.
- Neighborhood Yard Sale - Held the first Sunday in June from 9 a.m. til the shopping’s over.
- Reservoir of Jazz Concerts in the Park - Held Sundays in August from 5 – 7p.m. with a bonus Labor Day weekend concert this year!
- Children’s Holiday Parades - 4th of July Bike Decorating & Halloween Costume
- House Tour - Next one is scheduled for May 2016
- Love Your Home Event - Home restoration fair on alternating years with House Tour
It has taken a year of planning, but a location has finally been approved by the City and the project is moving forward. As the schedule looks now, we hope to hold a preliminary design meeting in May or June. Once we receive feedback from the community, the final design can be completed and building can start, most likely by late summer or early fall!

The intersection at Bryant and N. Negley has caused many of us concern over the past few years. The redevelopment of Bryant Street has increased foot traffic and vehicle traffic on N. Negley is made up many who are just passing through the neighborhood trying to get from point A to point B without much regard for the neighborhood setting. In an attempt to calm traffic and make the intersection safer, the City has approved the installation of painted bump-outs lined with candlestick reflectors. This will narrow the road and hopefully cause drivers to slow down. It will also shorten the walking distance across the street and give pedestrians a safer, more visible area to begin to cross. Installation is planned for late May – early June.

We are always looking for people who want to get involved or for those who just want to make sure we have the funds we need to continue to do good work in the neighborhood. We invite you to join us as we strive to make Highland Park the best neighborhood in the City of Pittsburgh!

Monica Watt
HPCC President

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HPCC April Meeting Minutes

Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Commander Lando introduced five of his officers who he invited so they can meet residents and hear our concerns first hand. They included three community oriented officers and two undercover officers, who have been assigned to the three recent robberies that have occurred in Highland Park.

Neighbors were able to ask questions of the team such as “Should they be concerned walking around the neighborhood at night?” and “What steps are being taken to catch the suspect?” Commander Lando indicated that we should not be afraid to be outside. He made a comparison to Shadyside around the holidays where they can have 15 such events in a month. He understands that this type of event is very rare in Highland Park and appreciates our concern. All of the events took place around 9 - 9:30 p.m. and suggests that until this is resolved, if you do go out after dark it is best to travel in groups and stay in well-lit areas. He advised us not to fight back if someone approaches you. He also stated that as of the meeting date we had not had an incident in the past 10 days.

The main speaker for the evening was Mark Dixon, Highland Parker and filmmaker, who hosted a free screening of his documentary The Power of One Voice: A 50-Year Perspective on the Life of Rachel Carson. The film as very well received and Mark was kind enough to stay and answer questions at the end of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next HPCC meeting is Thursday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m. at St Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton Street. Principal Arnold will talk about upcoming construction planned at Fulton School which will begin in early June. All neighbors of the school should attend. The Girl Scouts will also be on hand to present their Silver Awards.
An Update from the Highland Park Community Development Corporation

Highland Park is fortunate to have three fundamental neighborhood strengths to help frame our redevelopment - solid, historic housing stock, a compact, walkable commercial district, and direct access to a major urban park that wraps three edges of the neighborhood. The goal of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC) is to build on each of these assets, while also filling gaps created over the years by localized disinvestment and shortsighted decisions of the past.

Below, a brief update on activities underway on all fronts:

RESIDENTIAL: The Southwest Quadrant remains a primary focus of our strategy, and turnaround is well underway in this corner of Highland Park. Problem properties are being renovated to new home ownership and we continue to see an unprecedented influx of new neighbors and investment. The HPCDC remains in a role of taking on those key projects that stabilize blocks so that private investment may follow. Our most recent accomplishment is 923 Mellon Street, a partnership between the HPCDC and a private developer that was recently completed and sold. On the next block, 824 Mellon Street is currently receiving a major rebuilding utilizing the same partnership.

BRYANT STREET: The second phase of the HPCDC’s efforts on the street is nearing completion - the new mixed use building beside Park Bruges. At street level, open, flexible commercial space featuring high ceilings and ample glass will bring new life to the street by providing new businesses the kind of space that has not been available until now. We are in talks with several business owners right now that we know would be great additions to the Bryant Street story. Above the retail are six 2-BR townhouse apartments with a rear courtyard and garage parking off the alley. Additional retail space is still available, and not all of the apartments have been taken yet. Please contact us if you are interested in either opportunity!
NEXT UP on Bryant Street will be the restoration of the two story brick building at the corner of Bryant and N. St Clair. Look for this to start later this summer. Three apartments and a new commercial storefront will help to continue the rejuvenation of this unique neighborhood commercial district.

HIGHLAND PARK: Last fall saw the opening of the new Heth’s Run Bridge, a 15+ year effort to replace the previous span with a new and improved version that improves traffic flow, provides a suitable entry to the City, Park, and Zoo, and, of special benefit to Highland Park and Morningside, will eventually host trails that connect the neighborhoods to riverfront trails. We expect the park and trail planning efforts to restart in the coming months. A strong community voice will be very important in supporting the efforts of the HPCDC and HPCC to make sure that this project lives up to its full potential. Look for updates from the HPCC on the ListServ.

See you in the neighborhood!

David Hance, President
HPCDC

Annual Fulton K-5 School Tour
By David Atkinson

Located in the heart of Highland Park, Fulton K-5 is an award winning neighborhood school featuring a French magnet program. This year’s Fulton tour will introduce prospective families to the school and new principal Karen Arnold. The Annual Fulton Tour is sponsored by the HPCC and will be held Wednesday May 27th at 9:00am. Visit hpccpgh.org to register online.

In 2014, Principal Kevin Bivins was promoted to Assistant Superintendent, and Karen Arnold was chosen to replace him. Principal Arnold will continue to build on Mr. Bivins’ success while putting her own stamp on the school. Last summer, Principal Arnold implemented Kindergarten Camp, a two day program that introduces children to the school and their new teachers. Incoming Fulton students spend one day on reading and one day on math while becoming comfortable and confident in their new environment.

Like other schools throughout the State, Fulton is adjusting to Pennsylvania’s version of the Common Core. Fulton teachers are introducing cross content writing into the curriculum to help improve reading comprehension and analysis. In safety matters, Principal Arnold has improved the arrival and dismissal process by purchasing radios for the staff. She has also partnered with St. Andrews’ church which will be the primary safe haven for Fulton students in case of an emergency. Students will participate in their first evacuation drill this year.

Qualified Fulton students enrolled in the magnet program are guaranteed acceptance into the Obama Academy 6-12 in East Liberty. This year Obama Academy graduates have been accepted into colleges throughout the state as well as Brown, Cornell, Oberlin, Yale and West Point.

Graduates can earn up to a full year of college credit through the International Baccalaureate diploma and up to $40,000 in Pittsburgh Promise scholarship money for in-state tuition at public or private colleges or at trade schools.

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Yard Sale - 9 a.m. Start
The festivities begin the first Sunday in June (the 7th) with our massive, multi-family Highland Park Community Council Yard Sale and Bryant Street Festival.

Like last year, we will have over a thousand people strolling through the neighborhood looking for antiques, bargains and collectibles. For those of you living in an apartment or on a side street with limited foot traffic, we will be hosting the Highland Park Flea Market at the corner of Bryant St. and N. Highland Avenue. If this is of interest, please check the appropriate box when filling out the form. There is an option to rent tables for the flea market. Space is limited so don’t delay.

It is easy to participate. The Highland Park Community Council coordinates the yard sale. Simply fill out the form provided below. With the exception of your address and the items you wish to sell, all information is confidential. Visit hpccpgh.org to sign-up and pay or mail the form below and a $15 check made out to the HPCC to the address listed at the bottom of the page. You can also email your information and send your payment prior to the due date. Your payment covers advertising and printing costs including yard sale maps with address/sale item listings and signage. Forms received after Sunday, May 31st will not be listed in the handouts. Please print legibly to minimize errors.

Don’t forget to pick up your signs and balloons the Saturday (June 6th) before the yard sale on the front porch of the address provided below.

Bryant Street Festival - Noon - 5 p.m.
After a healthy morning of walking our tree-lined streets in search of your favorite yard sale find, we invite you to join us on Bryant Street for live musical performances, delicious foods from our local businesses and neighbors and artists selling their jewelry, ceramics, stationery and much more. (If you are interested in participating, please let us know. We will provide you with an 8-foot table and two chairs.)

There will be activities for kids including face painting and Union Project will be on hand spinning their clay wheel!

This annual neighborhood festival is Sunday, June 7th from Noon until 5:00 p.m. Bryant Street will be blocked off between N. Highland and N. St Clair with musical acts on the stage including Histrionic, a musical group made up of high school students from the neighborhood, songstress Heather Kropf, swampy blues from IV and our favorite Slide Worldwide with their funk, soul, R&B and blues played with a jazz attitude. Look for more details on the HPCC ListServ and website.

We will need some volunteers to assist with setting up and taking down the tables and chairs. Please contact us via email at festival@highlandparkpa.com if you want to participate, volunteer, or have any questions.

Yard Sale Participation Form
Name __________________________________________ Street Address __________________________________________
Phone Number ________________________________ Email Address __________________________________________
If you are interested in the Bryant Street Flea Market option, check here: ☐ Yes
List Items For Sale __________________________________________
Please be concise - no more than 200 characters. List best items first. There is no limitation on what can be sold, only what is listed in the map handout.
Please mail (or drop off) the form and a check made out to the HPCC for $15 to Paul Miller, 5714 Elgin Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. For questions, please call (412) 999-7568 or email YardSale@highlandparkpa.com.
A general rule: If you need to see or speak directly to a member of Public Safety, i.e. Police, Fire or EMS, calling 9-1-1 is the right thing to do.

When calling 9-1-1:
- Stay calm and speak clearly
- Know where you are (exact location)
- Answer all the questions asked
- When asked, explain in detail what is occurring
- Follow all of the instructions you are given
- Do not hang up until told to do so
- Stay close to your phone. A Telecommunications Operator might call you back.

The Allegheny County Emergency Operations Center/911 provides service to the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County residents. Calls are answered by trained Telecommunications Officers 24/7. Calls are prioritized then dispatched to the appropriate agency (Police, Fire, EMS). Callers who wish to remain anonymous can advise the Telecommunication Officer that they would not like to leave their name or number.

Contact 3-1-1 for NON-EMERGENCIES:
- Graffiti, pot holes, overgrown weeds, trash, parking or traffic issues
- Information on city events or neighborhood services
- Any non-emergency situation

Call, Tweet or Request Service online:
- Call 311 or 412.255.2621
- Fill out a request online at pittsburghpa.gov/311/form
- Tweet @311PGH

When you make a request:
- Explain the problem as completely as you can
- Remember to give an address
- Use the tracking number to follow-up on your request

The City of Pittsburgh’s Response Center/311 provides service to all city residents. Requests are dispatched to the appropriate City agency (Department of Public Works, Bureau of Building Inspection, etc.) within one business day. Those who wish to remain anonymous can advise the operator that they would not like to leave their name or number.

Zone 5 Open House Planned

The Zone 5 police station will be hosting its 1st in a series of open houses on Thursday, May 28th, from 5p.m. - 8p.m.

The station will be open to all residents, business owners, and community leaders. Come meet the officers and learn more about the Bureau of Police.

Representatives from the specialty units (SWAT, Bomb Squad, Motorcycle Division, etc.) will be on hand to display their vehicles and equipment for kids (young and old) who are curious.

For those of you who have not been attending the HPCC monthly meetings, we have a new Zone 5 Police Commander - Jason Lando. He is very much about transparency and open dialog within the Zone to foster the best possible outcome. He attends our monthly meetings and sends email updates to the neighborhood on a regular basis. I share them via the ListServ as I receive them, but you can also sign up to receive them directly in your inbox. Many residents have been asking when to call 311 vs. 911. The information below should help.

Call 9-1-1 FOR ANY EMERGENCY:
- In progress crime(s) - happening now
- Life-threatening situations, i.e. fire, vehicle accidents, injuries that require immediate medical attention
- Any home alarm system sounding i.e. fire, carbon monoxide, burglar alarm
- Property damage - yours or a neighbor’s
- If someone breaks into your car or steals a bike
- Anything you deem an emergency
I was looking for a grove name in the Park and came across this delightful July 19, 2009 post by Melissa McMasters on the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Blog. I thoroughly enjoyed it and thought I would share the post with the neighborhood.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

... One day I got an e-mail that allowed us to take a very interesting look into the past, specifically one of the golden periods in Highland Park’s history.

Mar-Jean Zamperini was recently looking through some old family photos and came across a number of shots that appeared to be taken in a public park. Closer inspection revealed that the shots were all taken in Highland Park around 1916-1917, and so she was kind enough to allow us to share some of these photos on our blog. I also thought it would be fun to compare them with some of the popular postcards of the era that we’re lucky enough to have in our office archive.

First, here is a shot of the reservoir, which existed ten years before Highland Park was officially dedicated. Opened in 1879 to supply drinking water to the citizens of Pittsburgh, Reservoir No. 1 was initially a failure - when the pumping system was turned on for the first time, it was discovered that someone had forgotten to connect the outlet pipes! The problem was soon repaired, and the reservoir became such a popular

gathering place that it inspired Parks Director Edward Bigelow to build a park around it. Highland Park is a fine example of capitalizing on an opportunity, and making an already-beloved place even better for its users.

After acquiring enough land to dedicate the area as a park in 1889, Bigelow’s next project was designing an entry plaza just below the reservoir that would connect the highly-used area even more to the neighborhood. The Highland Park Entry Garden, which was created in the 1890s, was considered the finest public space in Pittsburgh in its early days, and it’s obvious from these old photographs why people were so drawn to it. The landscaping was meticulously planned and cared for, and walking paths encouraged people to linger in the garden and its Victorian splendor. The postcard from 1901 shows off the formal design of the garden beautifully. There were several iterations of the garden over the years, and you can see from Mar-Jean’s photo that by 1916 the fountain had become somewhat less emphasized, with plantings around the central feature. As parks became less of a priority over the decades and funding decreased, the fountain basin was completely turned into a planting bed, with trees in the center. In the Parks Conservancy’s 2005 restoration, we opted to restore the fountain closer to its original design, providing a central gathering place and a focus for the garden.
Another popular new feature of Highland Park during that period was the zoo, which originally opened in 1898. Both Schenley Park and Riverview Park had zoos at this time, and their collections were eventually transferred over to the larger Highland Park zoo. Mar-Jean’s family is pictured here outside one of the glass houses, and the distinctive dragon lighting sculptures visible in the postcard are shown in striking detail here. During this period, the zoo was mainly a display for a menagerie of exotic plants and animals. The focus turned to conservation and animal habitat starting in the 1930s, when the first bear habitats were built. Although the zoo certainly looks much different today from an architectural perspective, we can probably all agree that the animals are much happier in the more spacious habitats that mimic their conditions in the wild.

Mar-Jean’s family also paid a visit to Lake Carnegie, which at this time was a much larger, more open place for recreation. Imagine a boat on today’s Lake Carnegie - it would have nowhere to go! The lake was originally not a lake at all, and in fact predates the park. It was built in the 1870s to serve as a halfway station for water being pumped from the Allegheny River up to Reservoir No. 1. Andrew Carnegie provided a good deal of the funding for the project, which is why the lake bears his name.

By the time the basin had been dug and it was ready to use, a pump had come on the market that was strong enough to allow water to go straight from the river to the reservoir with no need to stop in the middle. So the stone lining the lake bed was instead used for walls and bridges, and the lake was opened to boaters and swimmers. A popular boating destination, the lake ultimately fell victim to the popularity of swimming. After several divers were injured in the lake, in 1932 more than half of the space was converted to a swimming pool that would be safer for its users. Today what’s left of the lake is great for the geese but not so fun for people, who no longer have a safe way to use it. Restoring the lake is an eventual goal of our Regional Parks Master Plan.

... I’d like to thank Mar-Jean again for sharing these wonderful photos with us. Not only do they provide a fascinating look at how our parks used to be and how people used to live, but details such as the planting patterns and iron work around the reservoir provide the Parks Conservancy with valuable insight into the planned design of the parks. We use information like this to help guide future restoration efforts so that we can remain as faithful to the original intent as possible.

To learn more about the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, go to www.pittsburghparks.org. To see the original post go to www.pittsburghparks.wordpress.com/2009/07/19/a-glimpse-into-the-past/. 
As we move along through the month we would highlight that on the Third Sunday, May 17, at 4:30 p.m., the Sunday after Ascension Day, a service of Choral Evensong will be sung by the St. Andrew’s Schola Cantorum, and with Guest Preacher Mr. C. Garrett Yates, our Seminarian. Music for this Ascensiontide service will include anthems by 20th century English composers C.V. Stanford and Ralph Vaughan Williams. All are welcome.

Sunday morning services at St. Andrew’s will continue with our regular schedule - a simpler service at 9 a.m., a choral service at 11 a.m.—through Memorial Day weekend. Beginning on May 31st and then continuing through June, July, and August we shift to a “summer schedule,” with one Sunday morning service at 10 a.m. Our highly regarded Godly Play Children’s Program will continue through the 17th of May at the 9:45-10:45 Sunday morning hour. During June, July, and August the Children’s Chapel program will be scheduled during a portion of the service hour on selected Sundays.

After a year’s hiatus (through our season of renovations) we are pleased to welcome back the much-loved St. Andrew’s summer, Memorial Day - Labor Day Used Book Sale. Members of the parish and neighborhood are invited to contribute gently used books in all genres (though no textbooks, please). DVD movies and musical CD’s (no VHS or audio cassette tapes), and specialty magazines (cooking, travel, etc.) are also most welcome. These all are then arranged, displayed, and put on sale at very reasonable prices - all for the enrichment of our summer reading and for the good cause of the financial support of the St. Andrew’s Lecture series. The Book Sale is available for our shopping delight on Sunday mornings and whenever else the Parish House is open for parish events and neighborhood meetings. If the Parish House door is locked during weekdays, please come on over to the Church Office and our Parish Secretary will be glad to let you in!

Also of interest for families, St. Andrew’s will be conducting a “Choristers Camp” this summer for elementary/middle school aged children who may be interested in beginning or continuing in our exceptionally rich children’s music program. Please contact the Organist and Choirmaster (and Highland Park neighbor) Peter Luley at peterluley@aol.com for more information.

We’ll have other things on the summer schedule: our traditional Summer Book Discussion Groups, a Sunday afternoon outing to PNC Park to cheer on the Pirates - and probably a picnic or two in the Churchyard. It’s all fun, and we’re always glad to welcome new friends and neighbors. Please check the website or give Michelle a call in the Church Office to find out the latest news!

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 don’t hesitate to call. 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.
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Vice President – Dave Atkinson
Treasurer – Paul Miller
(412) 365-0675
Secretary – Bob Staresinic
(412) 441-8972

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Highland Park
Community Council


Find out what’s happening in Highland Park, sign-up to become an HPCC member/pay for membership online, check out prior issues of the newsletters or join the neighborhood email ListServ at www.HPCCPGH.org.