

September 2015

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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What produces the loudest insect sound known to science?

Photo by Roger Smith

A Letter from the President

September marks back-to-school time and the beginning of the HPCC fiscal year. That means it is time to renew your annual membership in the Highland Park Community Council. Remember, we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization run completely by neighborhood volunteers and 100% of all membership fees and donations are used to support Highland Park. You can join online at www.hpccpgh.org or mail in the membership form below. We cannot continue our good work without your membership support.

As you may recall, we kicked off the year early with the new HPCC Love Your Home event. The event allowed homeowners to connect one-to-one with city departments and experts in home remodeling. We plan to hold this event every other year, alternating with the House Tour. That means the House Tour is this year! Save the date - Saturday, May 7th, 2016, Mother's Day Weekend.

The Yard Sale broke records again this year with 170 homes officially participating and the Bryant Street Festival attracted the largest crowd yet. This year we also expanded Reservoir of Jazz to six weeks with a bonus Labor Day concert.

All of these events are coordinated by the HPCC Board and volunteers in the neighborhood.

The Board is made up of 13 members, all residents of Highland Park. Each year, three of the members rotate off of the board as three more are voted on for a three-year term. My sincere thanks to Vernon Simmons,

Janine Jelks-Seale and Christine Adams for their three years of dedicated community service.

This year we lost two board members, Andrew Brooks and Nell Gladson, mid-term due to family relocation. I am happy to report that Janine Seale and Christine Adams, who are finishing their terms this year, have agreed to finish out the remainder of Andrew and Nell's terms.

Voting for new board members took place at last week's meeting. Please help me welcome Jessica Bowser, Scott Dietrich and Todd Shirley to the board!

A recap of the last year would not be complete without a nod to Commander Lando. From his weekly crime updates to his personal visits to our monthly meetings, he has shown his commitment to the neighborhood and the Zone.

His most recent endeavor is a new group called the Zone 5 Commander's Cabinet. Through it he has brought together individuals within the Zone 5 community who are the leaders in our schools, churches, government organizations, and neighborhoods with the goal of keeping open constructive communication to help strengthen the Zone. God forbid, if there is a serious incident that impacts community safety, such as what happened in Baltimore this year, this working group will be in a position to come together quickly, make decisions as a team and speak as a united front. It is a forward-thinking way of approaching policing and community engagement and I am honored to be included.

Monica Watt
HPCC President



Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Renewal New Member *Membership runs from September to August. Personal information will only be used for membership communications.*

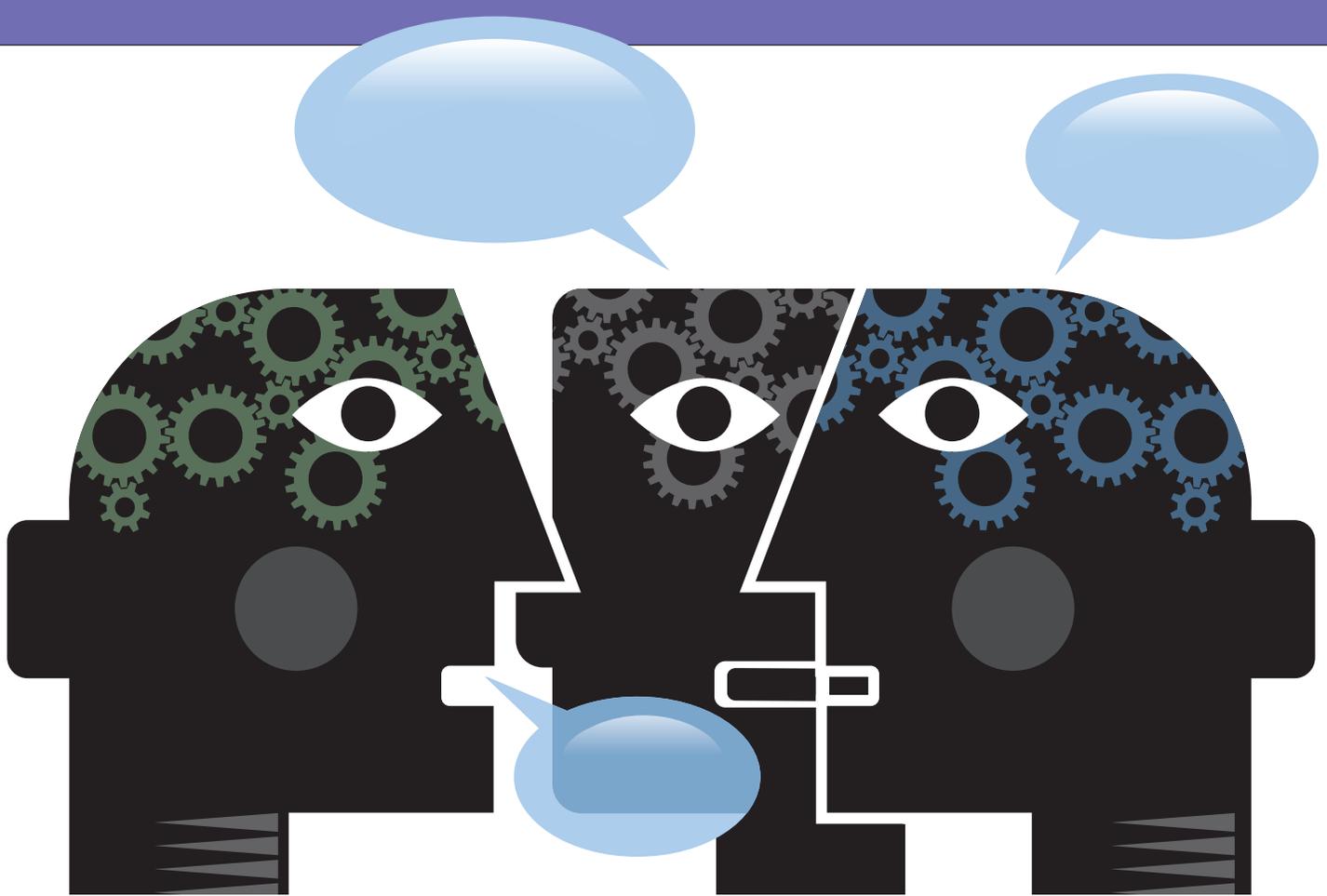
Annual Membership Levels

\$10 Low Income \$25 (Individual or Family) \$50 Friend of Highland Park \$100 Patron of Highland Park \$250 Champion of Highland Park

Check # _____ Check Date _____ Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to the Highland Park Community Council

Mail to: HPCC c/o Kelly Meade, 1217 Heberton St., Pittsburgh, PA 15206-1733



HPCC August Meeting Minutes

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

Jason Lando, Zone 5 Commander, spoke about the recent rash of stolen copper downspouts. We are encouraged to report anything that is suspicious to 911. He also explained that the Homicide and Robbery divisions are being dissolved city-wide and a consolidated Group Violence Intervention team is being created.

Nominations for the 2015-2016 Officers and 2015-2018 Directors were made and duly seconded. The slate of Officers for one-year terms are: Monica Watt, President; David Atkinson, Vice President; Paul Miller, Treasurer; Bob Staresinic, Secretary. The slate of Directors for three-year terms are: Jessica Bowser, Todd Shirley and Scott Dietrich. Elections will be held at the annual Member's meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

Monica Watt reported on the off-leash exercise area for dogs. The design has been completed and the project is on schedule to start building in the fall.

Michael Potoczny, Park Manager & Designer at The Wheel Mill, spoke about the indoor bike park on Hamilton Ave. This is a facility that opened in 2013, and has courses fit for beginner cyclists thru professionals. Lessons Summer camps are available, and equipment (bikes, safety gear) can be rented if you don't have your own.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, October 15 at St. Andrews Church starting at 7 pm.



SOLARIZE

Friendship- Highland Park- Morningside

By Jake Pawlak

This fall, Highland Park residents, along with our neighbors in Friendship and Morningside, have a unique opportunity to find out whether solar power makes sense for their homes. Our neighborhoods were recently selected for the second phase of the Solarize Allegheny campaign, a community outreach program that helps to reduce the barriers for home and business owners to install solar energy systems.

The cost of solar has dropped dramatically over the past few years, and a soon-to-expire 30% Federal tax credit makes now the perfect time to consider going solar. Between now and the end of October, residents and business owners can get information about the campaign and access an online platform to find out if your home or business is good for solar by visiting www.SolarizeAllegheny.org/Friendship-Highland-Park-Morningside and clicking on the blue button "Find out if your home is good for solar." Having a copy of your electric bill handy when you visit the site will be useful in providing accurate information. Your information will automatically be transferred to the two local, pre-screened, qualified solar installers who were selected to participate in the project. If your home is a good candidate for solar, you will receive a quote from local solar installers who are participating in the campaign and who have been pre-screened to assure that they are qualified, experienced and reliable businesses. The installers may call or visit the property owner to gather more information necessary to create a quote.

The online portal also provides useful information about financing a solar installation. These financing options have made it possible for many homeowners to pay roughly the same amount per month as they currently pay to an electric provider, and once the system is paid off, it's possible for many residents to see their monthly energy costs disappear altogether, with an average savings of around \$15,000 over the 25 year life of a solar system.

A team of volunteers representing all three neighborhoods applied to participate in the program with the support of the HPCC as well as the Friendship Community Group, Morningside Area Community Council, and Councilwoman Deb Gross. The campaign, which is funded by the Heinz Endowments and managed by non-profit marketing agency SmartPower, began in February with four communities, and was expanded this summer to include three more, including Friendship-Highland Park-Morningside.



Cicadas Produce the Loudest Insect Sound Known to Science

A reprint from the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy "Let's Talk About Parks" Series

When you think about the sound that most reminds you of summer, the rhythmic, rasping rattle of cicadas probably comes to mind.

The chorus of the cicada can be heard across Pittsburgh's parks because cicadas produce the loudest insect sound known to science. The call is made by male cicadas, who are trying to find a mate. The song is loud and persistent, perhaps because these singers don't have a lot of time — adult cicadas live only for about a month (four to six weeks), not a lot of time when you're trying to find a love connection and nothing when compared to how long they live as nymphs.

The majority of cicadas live two to five years underground as nymphs. A nymph is an immature insect that resembles the adult and goes through a gradual metamorphosis. Once the nymph is old enough, it climbs out of the soil and latches onto a tree, where it sheds its skin and emerges as an adult. The old exoskeleton is left behind, and if you look closely at a tree trunk, you may find a discarded cicada skin still clinging to the bark.

While the majority of cicadas live for two to five years as nymphs, there is a genus of cicada, the

Magicicada, that lives underground for 13 or 17 years. When that 13- or 17-year period is up, all individuals of the population — upward of 1.5 million cicadas per acre — emerge at once. They have a few weeks to mate and lay eggs, then they're gone for another decade and a half.



Photo by Bill Bumgarner

In the Pittsburgh area, the next mass emergence of the Magicicada cicada is predicted to be in 2016 when "Brood V" (scientists identify broods at different locations by assigning brood numbers) emerges.

If you're lucky enough to see a cicada up close, the most noticeable feature, other than its size and beautifully intricate wing patterns, will be the two large eyes on either side of the head. Take a closer look and you'll also see that cicadas have three more tiny eyes right in the middle of their forehead. Another fascinating fact —

cicadas are edible, their taste earning them the nickname "shrimp of the land."

For more information, go to www.pittsburghparks/letstalkaboutparks.

The "Let's Talk About Parks" series is designed to encourage exploration and discovery of Pittsburgh's urban parks.



JUST HARVEST'S FRESH ACCESS PROGRAM



A great way to find nutritious, affordable food this summer is through Just Harvest's Fresh Access Program at all seven Pittsburgh Citiparks farmers markets and eight other area markets.

At Just Harvest's tent you can swipe your ACCESS/EBT, credit, or debit card and get tokens that can be used with dozens of participating vendors to buy locally-grown produce, meats, breads, dairy, and other items. And now, Fresh Access **Food Bucks** give food stamp shoppers an extra \$2.00 to spend on fruits and veggies for every \$5.00 they spend in food stamps.



Shoppers who'd like to pay with food stamps, credit or debit cards should look for the Just Harvest tent at the market. There, they

swipe their card and receive wooden tokens, which work like cash at the market and are redeemable with all participating vendors. The service is free for SNAP shoppers. Unused tokens can be used throughout the market season.



Vendors at the East Liberty farmers market sell a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, seedlings, meats, eggs, baked goods, honey, and coffee, among other things. Certain prepared foods, such as hummus, are also eligible for food stamp purchase. In September, look for melons, tomatoes, peppers, and corn!

Fresh Access is a program of Just Harvest, a non-profit located on Pittsburgh's South Side, dedicated to ending hunger, poverty and economic injustice in Allegheny County.

More information on the program and the location of the 13 participating farmers markets is available at www.justharvest.org/get-help/fresh-access/ or by calling (412) 431-8960 x102.



\$2 FRESH ACCESS FOOD BUCKS

For more information about the **Fresh Access** program or to locate participating markets, visit www.justharvest.org or call (412) 431-8960 x102.



Good only for fruits and vegetables
For SNAP/food stamp recipients only
Only redeemable with participating vendors at Fresh Access markets
Not redeemable for cash
No change given

Confident City Cycling Classes

Courtesy of Bike Pittsburgh

Saturday, October 17, 2015
from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

BikePGH Members - \$10

Non-BikePGH Members - \$15

Biking in the city is fun - plain and simple - and with millions being invested in creating a more bike friendly Pittsburgh, now is the perfect time to start.

Confident City Cycling is intended for riders who are comfortable riding a bike alone - on trails or quiet streets - and would like to learn the simple skills necessary to become comfortable urban cyclists.

The class begins in a wide-open, traffic-free parking lot where riders will practice control skills until they're comfortable. From there, we break the class up into smaller groups and head out on a 3-5 mile, instructor-led ride through the city where we frequently stop and check out strategies for handling different traffic patterns. Throughout the class we stay comfortable with lots of water and snacks!

The class is intended for participants ages 15 and up.

Find out more at bikepgh.org/citycycling



Middle School Mentoring Coffee Klatch

by Dave Atkinson



Are you the right person to mentor a middle schooler this fall at the Obama Academy? Come find out while you enjoy coffee and a treat – compliments of the HPCC. Charles Howell of the Mt. Ararat Community Activity Center (MACAC) will explain what's involved in becoming a mentor and answer your questions.

"When Taye started 6th grade he didn't want to go," laughs his former guidance counselor. "By the time he got to 8th grade, he never missed." Taye's mentor was patient and accepting. An educator herself, she saw and gently encouraged Taye's potential. Now, in 9th grade, he sees it too. "We've all noticed huge growth in Taye. He's demonstrating responsible behaviors and a maturity that shows in his schoolwork." Taye's mentor helped him complete his application to a magnet high school where he hopes to pursue his interest in technology. "Taye's mentor was definitely instrumental in shifting his whole attitude toward school," says his school guidance counselor.

Over the past five years, more than 1,500 people have responded the **Be A Middle School Mentor (BAMSM)** program – run by the United Way of Allegheny through community partners such as MACAC. Recognized as the region's largest school-based mentoring initiative, BAMSM matches caring adults with middle school students for the duration of their middle school years (grades 6-8). Now operating in 14 Pittsburgh Public Schools, and one charter school, BAMSM encourages academic excellence and helps students develop career aspirations. The partnership will connect 400+ adults and students in 2015-2016.

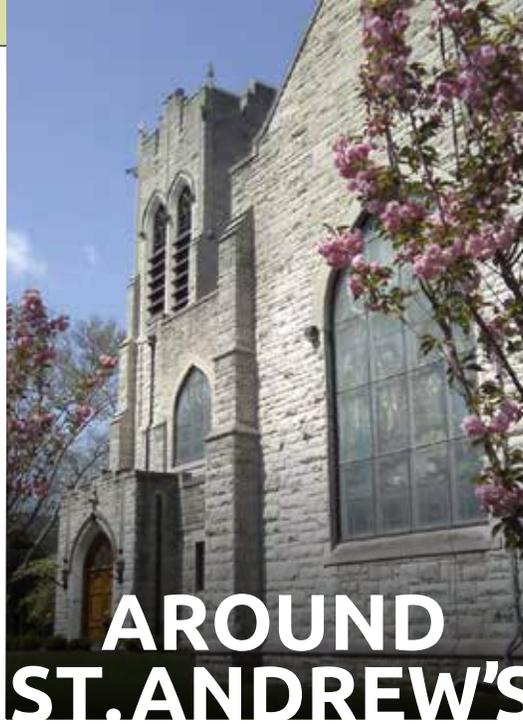
Mentors are interviewed, screened, trained, matched and supervised by MACAC. Mentors meet their mentee each week at the Obama Academy for one hour a week from October to May. Sessions are held Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Mentors also agree to a commitment of 12 months of mentoring.

The coffee hour will be held on Thursday October 1st at 12:30pm. Please contact Dave Atkinson at datkinsonpgh@gmail.com for more information.

Summer fades away in Western Pennsylvania, the Steelers and Penguins open their new seasons, our amazing Pirates begin to make plans for a run into October, and the stores are filled with all the excitement of "Back to School" sales. In so many ways, "a new year," and with that a word of friendship and blessing to all in the neighborhood.

Sunday, September 13, was "Renaissance and Round Up" at St. Andrew's - a great fall gathering of our congregational family and friends as our regular service schedule resumed, with Church School and Adult Sunday morning programs - and with a special, not-to-be-missed, standing-room-only service of Choral Evensong sung by the Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, U.K.!

The first service of the morning, as we resume the Fall Schedule, is 9 a.m., Holy Communion, contemporary language, in the Chapel, followed at 9:45 a.m. by our Montessori-themed "Godly Play" Children's Program. At 10 a.m. our Sunday Adult Bible Study gathers in the Clover Conference Room upstairs in the Old Rectory.



AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

The Choral Service of Holy Communion (Choral Morning Prayer on the Second Sunday of each month), traditional language, begins at 11 a.m. Younger children attend the first part of the later service with their families and part way through the service will be invited to join Children's Chapel upstairs in the Parish House. Nursery Care for infants and toddlers is available from 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Parents interested in our Church School and Youth programs are invited to contact our Church School Director Brandon Cooper at churchschool@standrewspgh.org. All interested in our Parish Choir and Music Program should contact our Organist and Choirmaster (and Highland Park'er) Peter Luley, at peterluley@aol.com. Or just call the Church Office for more information.

In September as well we resume our midweek schedule, with Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Our regular service schedule also includes two services of Choral Evensong. On the Third Sunday of each Month, 4:30 p.m. service of Choral Evensong and Sermon, sung by St. Andrew's Schola Cantorum. The regular fall Sunday afternoon series began on September 20, at 4:30 p.m., and we were delighted to welcome as our guest preacher at that service the Rev. Lennell Anderson, Rector of St. Francis in the Fields Church, Somerset.

And we can mark calendars now for the first "First Thursday of the Month" service of Choral Evensong of the fall season, 8 p.m., on Thursday, October 1, sung by the St. Andrew's Parish Choir and followed by a musical recital. In October our recitalist will be Linda Morgan Ellison, piano. A festive reception in Brooks Hall will follow all the "First Thursday of the Month" evening services.

AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

Continued

Friday October 9th (8 p.m.) and Saturday October 10th (9 a.m.), will feature the 18th Annual St. Andrew's Lecture. This year we welcome the Rev. Dr. David V. Esterline, who with his wife, the Rev. Jane Esterline, is a new Highland Park neighbor and the new President of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, just down the block on North Highland Avenue. The focus of Dr. Esterline's lecture will be how his long experience in the foreign mission field - in Cameroon and Melanesia - will inform his leadership of an institution dedicated in large part to the formation of pastors for churches whose "mission fields" are in Western Pennsylvania. On Saturday morning Dr. Esterline will continue the conversation with panels and small groups including seminarians, clergy, and lay leaders. The lecture is free and open to the public.

A little later in October we will note on the calendar the 4:30 p.m. service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 18. We observe the Feast of St. Luke, Physician and Evangelist, and our Guest Preacher will be Episcopal Priest and Physician, the Rev. Daniel Hall, M.D. And on the next evening, Monday, October 19, at 8 p.m., our St. Andrew's Associate Organist, Mr. Ethan LaPlaca, will be presenting an organ recital with proceeds of the free-will offering to benefit the St. Andrew's Organ Renovation Fund.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

5801 Hampton Street
Highland Park, Pittsburgh
412-661-1245
www.standrewspgh.org

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Monroe Robison, Rector

The Rev. Jean D. Chess, Deacon

Peter J. Luley, Organist & Choirmaster

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Reservoir of Jazz – Tania Grubbs

Super Playground –

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Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366

Yard Sale – Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Welcoming – Todd Shirley

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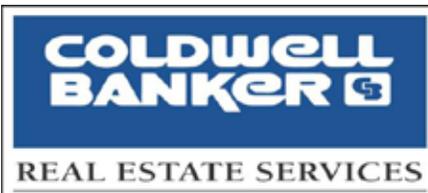
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