IN THIS ISSUE:

1. A Letter from the President
2. February Meeting Minutes
3. Learn About Election Primaries in PA
4. Destination Highland Park: Jeffrey Smith Comes Home
5. Pittsburgh’s Bicentennial – 2016
6. Just Pittsburgh: a Good Read
7. Street Cleaning Begins Next Week
Welcome to our busy season in Highland Park! We have a lot on deck in the coming months and I hope all of you have an opportunity to participate in the events.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

HPCC Marathon Family Sign Making Party – Friday, April 29, 5:30 p.m. on the deck behind Park Place Pub

HPCC Marathon Party – Sunday, May 1, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Bryant St.

HPCC House Tour VIP Event – Friday, May 6, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

HPCC House Tour – Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

HPCC Yard Sale – Sunday, June 5, 9:00 a.m.

HPCC Bryant Street Festival – Sunday, June 5, 12 Noon – 5:00 p.m.

These events offer family fun for everyone and bring thousands of people into the neighborhood. Let’s show them what a wonderful place it truly is.

On a more serious topic, I am fortunate to be a part of the Zone 5 Commander’s Cabinet. Commander Lando 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. We meet every other month to discuss our challenges and our successes in hopes of learning from each other. We also learn about the different divisions of the police department so we have a more clear understanding of their processes.

At the January meeting, the Cabinet was invited to run through the Firearm Training Simulator at the Pittsburgh Police Training Academy on Washington Blvd. You may have seen the article in the Post-Gazette.

HPCC Board.
Photo taken by Paul Miller
The experience was eye-opening. We learned about the levels of force available to the police—their voice, body language, baton, taser, sidearm, etc. and the appropriateness of their use. Then, we were each armed with an electronic Glock handgun that allowed us to use deadly force if we felt it was warranted when faced with virtually simulated situations that our police officers confront as part of their normal workday.

Now, I am a territorial person by nature and have always believed that I am capable of defending myself if faced with an intruder in my home. I took gun lessens in high school from a family friend who thought I needed to be able to protect myself when I went into “the city” for concerts and sporting events. I feel confident when I hold a gun to this day.

What I was not prepared to do is make split second decisions when someone is taken hostage and they are looking (screaming actually) for me to save them. The responsibility was daunting.

Each simulation is designed to help police officers train for real life situations in a safe environment with supervision in order to make their work in the field more effective. Their decision process is discussed after each simulation to get a full understanding of their actions and to counsel them if needed.

In real estate, it boils down to location, location, location. In policing, I believe it’s training, training, training.

I thought it would be beneficial for more people in Highland Park to have the same experience so I invited the HPCC Board to participate in a session. One board member summed it up nicely, “I came away with an appreciation for the efforts our police department takes to ensure the officers have the proper skills and training to allow them to make the most informed decisions when out in the field. The training program simulation provided me with an understanding of the split-second decisions that need to be made in situations involving guns and other weapons. It also was great to see the background education that is provided to our city’s officers, which provides them with a legal basis for their work.”

My sincere thanks to Officer John Lubawski, Range Master, for taking us through the process and helping to guide us when faced with challenging simulations.

Monica Watt
HPCC President
HPCC February Meeting Minutes

Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. with a quorum present.

Officers from Zone 5 spoke about recent crime activity in Highland Park and surrounding areas. They suggested locking car doors and to not leave your vehicle running and unattended to prevent theft.

Jessica Bowser spoke about the Pittsburgh Marathon sign-making party (Friday) and cheering for the runners on Bryant St. Sunday during the race.

Todd Shirley gave an update on the off-leash exercise area being installed in the park. The fencing is up but it will still be several months until it is open for use.

Monica Watt spoke about the May 7th House Tour. If you are interested in volunteering, email housetour@highlandparkpa.com.

Edith Bell spoke about CEDAW, the Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This is an international program, and there is an effort to make Pittsburgh a CEDAW city.

Laura Nettleton, architect, spoke about the proposed houses to be built at 930-934 Mellon Street. These houses will fill in lots that have been empty since 1990. Ms. Nettleton took feedback from the attendees, and will return at the March meeting with revised plans for the properties.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The HPCC will be hosting a non-partisan, informational session for primary voters at our regularly scheduled April community meeting on Thursday, April 21st, less than one week before Primary Day. The session will provide residents with information on the election process and the many different offices and levels of government that serve our community. Everyone is welcome to attend!
Election season is upon us! The Pennsylvania Democratic and Republican Primaries will be held on **Tuesday, April 26th**. Highland Park residents who are registered with one of those two parties will be choosing their party’s nominees for President, US Senate, US House of Representatives, PA Attorney General, PA Auditor General, PA Treasurer, and PA House of Representatives.

As Primary Day approaches, there are a few important dates to keep in mind. The **last day to register to vote in the Primary is Monday, March 28th**. Pennsylvania voters can now register to vote online through the [PA Dept. of State website](http://www.commo.state.pa.us). If you will be out of town or unable to make it to your polling place on election day, you can apply for an absentee ballot by **printing out an application** and mailing it to the Allegheny County Division of Elections, 542 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219. The **last day to apply for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, April 19th**. Speaking of polling places, if you are registered but don’t know where to go to vote, you can locate your polling place through the [Allegheny County website](http://www.allegheny.county.pa.us). Unlike some other states, Pennsylvania requires voters to be registered with one of the two major parties in order to vote in the primaries, so if you want to vote in either the Democratic or Republican Primary, make sure you are registered as a member of your party of choice before the 28th. Independent and third party voters cannot vote for candidates for office on Primary Day, but can vote on non-partisan referendums; this year, voters will be asked to vote on whether or not the Commonwealth’s mandatory retirement age for judges should be raised from 70 to 75.

Independent and third party voters will be able to vote for candidates for office in the general election on **Tuesday, November 8th**. The HPCC will be hosting a non-partisan, informational session for primary voters at our regularly scheduled April Community meeting on **Thursday, April 21st**, less than one week before Primary Day. The session will provide residents with information on the election process and the many different offices and levels of government that serve our community. *We hope to see you there!*
Jeffrey Smith Comes Home!

By Karin Manovich

After a 25-year exile in Ohio, Karin Manovich and her husband Mark returned to Pittsburgh last fall and purchased a home in Highland Park. Karin has spent most of her professional and personal time over the years working in neighborhood revitalization, historic preservation, downtown development, and marketing. She fell in love with Highland Park in just one day, and continues to be delighted with the architecture, walkability, amenities, and people of Highland Park.

Highland Park is looking noticeably cooler and well-coiffed now that Jeffrey Smith Salon has made its home on Bryant Street. Voted one of the top three salons in Pittsburgh in 2015 (Pittsburgh City Paper), the salon moved into 5806 Bryant Street location in December of 2014 after eleven years in Lawrenceville.

“Moving the business here has been the best move of my career,” states Jeffrey Smith, owner and nine-year Highland Park resident.

“The neighborhood support has been beyond belief.”

Smith has been amazed by the warm welcome of the neighborhood and the number of residents now patronizing the business.
When the space on Bryant Street became available, Smith decided it was time to leave Lawrenceville. He believed his clients had helped turn Lawrenceville around over the years by their presence. These clients are now impacting Bryant Street in a big way. They patronize the other businesses when visiting the salon. Smith estimates the salon draws 50 clients a day, on average.

The new location in Highland Park has attracted new clients from many other communities including Fox Chapel and Squirrel Hill. Smith has thoughtfully provided complimentary valet parking on Fridays and Saturdays for customer convenience and to help avoid potential parking issues on the street.

Walking into the salon, clients are treated to an upscale yet welcoming environment filled with sunlight and optimism. The salon space seamlessly displays Jeffrey’s exquisite jewelry designs and also acts as an art gallery. There is so much visual beauty in the space; it is hard not to assume that it will spread to include your hairstyle!

The space is surprisingly large and inspiring with exposed brick walls, soaring ceilings, pristine maple floors, and an upbeat color palette. A Wi-Fi bar with iPads and charging stations offers clients convenience and entertainment while they are in the salon. Customers browse maple shadow boxes to get a closer look at Smith’s jewelry designs. The salon showcases custom maple woodworking by Joe Kelly of Kelly Custom Furniture & Cabinetry.

Smith used the services of architect Paul Cali for the initial functional design of the space and credits Cali with the beautiful curved wall in the reception area. Everything else is all Smith, a self-described “design control freak guy”, who wanted the space to be influenced only by his own creativity. His staff was kept in the dark until the space was completely done. One staff member was driven to tears when the salon was unveiled. All are obviously delighted by their new surroundings.

The atmosphere is comfortable and extremely friendly. Smith notices a first time client in the waiting room and immediately offers a warm welcome and introductions. Maggie, Jeffrey’s miniature schnauzer, oversees the stylists from her throne under a large window.
Highland Park welcomes Jeffrey Smith home and counts itself lucky to have landed one of the best salons in Pittsburgh.

Jeffrey Smith Salon
5806 Bryant Street
Phone: 412-441-1440
www.jeffreysmithstudio.com

Currently, the artwork of award-winning Sean Clark is on display throughout the space. Smith invites the community to a special open house on the evening of May 1st., which will include food trucks, a DJ, wine, beer and soft drinks. The event will be the official art opening for Clark’s inspirational exhibit and for Smith’s introduction of his new spring collection of jewelry.

Smith has been designing and creating jewelry for the past five years, studying with teacher Gerry Florida. “This new collection for spring and summer is the best yet,” notes Smith.

The work of artist Sean Clark focuses on deteriorating architecture using collage and mixed media to capture the fragmented and complex tactility of decay. Highland Parkers who have restored homes and appreciate the promise held by neglected buildings will enjoy Clark’s talent and connect with the exhibit.

Jeffrey Smith Salon offers high quality hair, face, and nail services. Walk-ins are welcome. A new website is under construction and will be available soon with a complete list of services (www.jeffreysmithstudio.com).

**Jeffrey Smith, owner, provides services Tuesday through Saturday from 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM.**

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After the American Revolution, Denny continued to serve in the military, fighting in several battles against the Native Americans during the early years of the new United States. During this time, Denny traveled a lot, serving at Fort Mcintosh, near present-day Beaver, Pennsylvania; at Fort Venango, near present-day Franklin, Pennsylvania; and at Fort Harmar in eastern Ohio. He was part of a military trip to Fort Vincennes in Illinois. He also served with General Harmar in his battles against the Native Americans, and was an aide-to-camp of General St. Clair.

In 1796, Denny became an Allegheny County Commissioner. He became the first Treasurer of Allegheny County in 1803, and in 1816 he became the first Mayor of Pittsburgh. He died in office on July 21, 1822.

On March 18, 1816, Pittsburgh was incorporated as a city by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh set about forming its municipal government, and selected our first Mayor, Ebenezer Denny, who took the oath of office on July 9, 1816.

He was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, but after his military service he moved to Western Pennsylvania. He married Mary Wilkins in 1793 and together they had three sons—Harmar, St. Clair, and William Henry—and one daughter, Nancy. In 1778, when he was 17 years old, he joined the Continental Army, serving as ensign in the First Pennsylvania Regiment during the Revolutionary War.

During the Revolution, the Pennsylvania regiment was known for bravery in battle. In recognition of this, Denny was chosen to raise the American flag at Yorktown in 1783 at Cornwallis’ surrender. In the end, though, the honor went to Baron Von Steuben, who raised the flag instead of Denny.

In 1796, Denny became an Allegheny County Commissioner. He became the first Treasurer of Allegheny County in 1803, and in 1816 he became the first Mayor of Pittsburgh. He died in office on July 21, 1822.

Ebenezer Denny 1761–1822

View of the City of Pittsburgh in 1817.
If you’ve spent any time talking with me about Pittsburgh, you’ve heard my speech – possibly too often – about the “moment in time” I believe we’re living in. This is the idea that keeps me awake at night and propels me through every workday: Thanks to a variety of factors, over the next five to ten years Pittsburgh will reshape its destiny for at least the next generation and perhaps beyond, and those of us privileged to be here right now, especially those in any kind of leadership role, have an almost sacred responsibility to help get it right.

I feel the same way about the planet, by the way. Pittsburgh is sitting at an interesting intersection of local, national and global dynamics – everything from climate change to the shifting nature of community – which gives us a rare opportunity to simultaneously help ourselves and the world around us. What we do now matters; these are consequential times.

Usually what I get back from people here when I share that sentiment is vigorous agreement followed by some form of this question: “I get it, but what are we aiming towards? What does ‘getting it right’ mean?”

As a community, I suspect we are a ways off yet from agreeing on any kind of collective vision for our future. But I think I know what it is for my colleagues and me, and what I suspect many of us in this region’s robust social sector are pointing toward. It can be summed up in two words: Just Pittsburgh.

For the Endowments, I love the double sense of that phrase. By charter and choice, the work of this foundation is about the Pittsburgh region. We are firmly rooted in place and anchored in community. Our work is not about some vague ideal or disembodied goal; it is, rather, about a real town, and real people, and the fragile but resilient bonds that hold us together and give us a shared destiny and purpose beyond ourselves.

Yet we know, too, that no community exists in isolation and that now more than ever our fate is tied to the fate of the world around us. “Just Pittsburgh” is at once an invitation to focus on this place and this time, and a challenge to remain fully engaged in the defining issues facing human societies across the globe and to embrace the best ideas, innovations, lessons and models from the expanding global laboratory of human endeavor.

But “Just Pittsburgh” has a second set of meanings as well, rich with nuance and history: fair, unbiased, and evenhanded; moral, ethical, and good; reasonable, sensible, and sound. It’s amazing to me that a word steeped in such values, values that for most of us lie at the core of the American ideal if not our lived experience, could have become as controversial as it seems to be today.
I started thinking about what a “Just Pittsburgh” would look like after hearing from Angela Glover Blackwell at our p4 Conference last year and then meeting Toni Griffin, whose passion is to mine the intersection of urban design, community development and social justice for a framework to create the “just city.” We’ve since engaged both Griffin individually and Blackwell’s Policy Link as part of a broad effort to think through how Pittsburgh can embrace equity as core to its ongoing rebirth.

Probably every one of us has our own take on what a truly Just Pittsburgh would look like. For us at the Endowments, we have some clear ideas. A Just Pittsburgh would want to remove the deeply ingrained barriers that disadvantage some of us simply because we are black, female, poor or somehow “other.” It would not treat racism as a “black problem,” gender-based violence and discrimination as “women’s issues,” or rising rates of poverty as a problem only for the poor; it would, rather, see the role of entrenched power, and demand a shared response to a dynamic that diminishes us all.

It would open its arms in a wide embrace, unafraid of difference, aware that no person and no community has ever been made less by opening their hearts and minds more.

It would joyfully embrace its rebirth and the promise of a brighter future. But it would be intolerant of hiding behind one Pittsburgh celebrated in “best of” lists while letting a second Pittsburgh languish in poverty and discrimination. It would be intolerant of schools that underperform year after year after year, and of systems that fail to protect and prepare all children for successful lives.

It would protect its air and water quality, and not just in affluent neighborhoods, but everywhere, for everyone. It would care about public health and how its residents are faring, black or white, rich or poor. It would care that the benefits and rewards of its redeveloping neighborhoods are broadly shared with the people who already live there, especially those whose poverty and lack of influence make them so tragically easy to cast aside.

It would value its creative soul. It would nurture art, culture and creativity. It would celebrate both its great cultural institutions and the child from Homewood making a film on his iPhone. It would weave the capacity for innovation and creativity into everything from how it educates its children to how it redevelops its neighborhoods.

It would embrace leaders who aspire to transformation, not mediocrity. It would care about science, facts and data. It would tolerate the pain and discomfort of difficult conversations with people whose emotions are raw and deep and real.

Most of all, it would operate from a place of love and respect.

If that seems outlandish, a bridge too far in a city known for its bridges, all I can say is this: Right now, at this very moment, after decades of struggle, Pittsburgh is changing, as is the world around us. Is our dream to become the “next Houston” or a center of innovation and creativity? Will we be a place that reinvents learning or fights for the status quo? Will our new prosperity be broadly shared or benefit only some?

Years ago, our chair, Teresa Heinz, wrote that “places become what people dream.” Never has that been more true than it is right now. If we are willing to dream of a Just Pittsburgh, we can create it—we simply have to want to try.

Grant Oliphant is president of The Heinz Endowments. He rejoined the foundation in June 2014, after serving as president and chief executive officer of The Pittsburgh Foundation for six years. For nearly two decades, Grant held several senior management posts with Heinz family foundations before taking over the helm at The Pittsburgh Foundation in 2008. He also served as press secretary to the late U.S. Sen. John Heinz from 1988 until the senator’s death in 1991.
2016 STREET CLEANING SEASON BEGINS NEXT WEEK!

Street cleaning will run from April 4th through November 30th. Check street signs for details.

About the Program

In the spring season of each year the Department of Public Works (DPW) starts its Street Sweeping Program. The schedule is adjustable upon weather conditions.

The goal of the Street Sweeping Program is to clean Pittsburgh’s streets on a regular basis, by either machine sweeping, hand cleaning, or flushing. The goal is accomplished by distributing various levels of services throughout the business and neighborhood community areas.

Scheduling

Cleaning the business districts at night solves the scheduling problem because business activity is minimal and parking restrictions in the business areas afford DPW the opportunity to sweep these routes without interruption.

Neighborhood areas, on the other hand, present a different problem in that cars are normally parked throughout the night and begin to clear out after 8:00 a.m., which affords us the best opportunity to sweep residential streets during daylight hours.

The cooperation and understanding of the residents of Pittsburgh is greatly appreciated and necessary for a successful program.

HPCC Officers

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Monica Watt (412) 980-4208

Vice President
Dave Atkinson

Treasurer
Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Secretary
Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

HPCC Directors

Kelly Vitti
Jake Pawlak
James McAdams
Amber Quick
Janine Seale
Christine Adams
Jessica Bowser
Scott Dietrich
Todd Shirley

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 membership@highlandparkpa.com
Newsletter – Monica Watt (412) 980-4208 editor@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 – Todd Shirley
Zoning – Jake Pawlak
We Get Homes Sold!
2 Heads are Better than 1
Contact Us…We Are Available!!