The Magnolia Trees finally had a good year.
On May 12th, the first community outreach meeting on the Heth’s Run Ecological and Recreational Restoration Project is being held at the Union Project from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It is being hosted by project partners Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Zoo and PWSA. These community meetings will help to determine how the upper Heth’s Parklet and lower Heth’s Run zoo parking lot will be reimagined. Your input is vital, especially if you live near Heth’s Run.

The Southwest quadrant of the neighborhood has long been a challenge because of the amount of rental properties with high turnover and neglectful owners. The Highland Park Community Development Corp. (HPCDC) has spent the last 20 years slowly rehabbing one building after another, driving change. Unfortunately, there is still much work to be done. In hopes of shining some light on the issues, on April 14th I was joined by David Hance of the HPCDC, Deb Gross, the Mayor’s office, Zone 5 Police, PWSA, the Department of Permits, Licenses and Inspections (PLI) and DPW on a walk-through the neighborhood. We identified many zoning and safety issues including work being done without a permit, dangerous fire escapes, sidewalks with a 6" lift, filth and debris in alleys, a leaking roadside water box and seven abandon cars - four of them on or near Bryant Street where parking is at a premium.
Surprisingly, Highland Park has the highest abandon car rate in Zone 5. In the last year, 28 have been reported. I receive calls regularly about vehicles and have had a very successful tow rate. If you suspect a car is abandon, please contact me or report it to 311.

A towable vehicle has an expired inspection sticker and an expired plate registration over 90 days. If you use the new 311 app you will read about in this newsletter, you can upload pictures of the vehicle’s license plate and inspection sticker to aid the police in identifying it.

The city has released its annual paving plans and as you may have noticed, there are many roads in and around Highland Park that are being repaved. After spending the last few months walking around the neighborhood for the House Tour, I have noticed that there are a number of streets in need that did not make the list. If your street is one of them, please call 311 or use the City’s new 311 app to report it. Again, with the app, you can upload photos. The paving budget includes costs for updating handicap ramps, etc. on each street scheduled for paving. If those updates are not needed everywhere, there may be some extra funds left over at the end of the season to pave a few more miles of road.

The Department of City Planning will be having a public meeting to discuss the details of the Bike Lane project on N. Negely Ave. on Thursday, May 26th at the Union Project. Keep an eye out on the ListServ for the time of the meeting as your feedback on their plans is needed. Installation is currently planned for late summer/early fall.

Last, but not least, I have an update on the OLEA for dogs. The water fountain has been ordered and is scheduled to ship on May 10th. Once it delivers, workers will dig a trench over to the site and install the water lines and fountain. That work should take one week. Based on this schedule, the grand opening of the OLEA will be in late May, just in time for summer.

Monica Watt, HPCC President
Janine Seale and Jake Pawlak presented a PA election guide for Highland Park. They gave an overview of the levels of government, the roles of elected officials and the schedule of when each position is up for re-election. A list of current positions that we will be voting on in the April 26th elections was also presented.

Monica Watt reported on the proposed late-May opening of the off-leash exercise area being built in the park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next HPCC meeting is Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Carl Cooper, Esq., a Diversity Consultant who lives in Highland Park and plans to share some of his insights with us. Mr. Cooper will talk about the importance of diversity and inclusion in our neighborhood and how Highland Park's demographics align with the City of Pittsburgh as a whole. All are welcome to attend.
Yard Sale - 9 a.m. Start

The festivities begin the first Sunday in June (the 5th) with our massive, multiple household Highland Park Community Council Yard Sale.

Like last year, we will have thousands of 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 hpcpgh.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 Monday, May 30th 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 4th) 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, a fire truck to climb on and Union Project will be on hand spinning their clay wheel!

This annual neighborhood festival is Sunday, June 5th 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 Gavin McCall on acoustic guitar, 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.
Greetings, neighbors! The Highland Park Community Development Corporation (HPCDC) has had another active year and I am pleased to offer this update of our accomplishments, as well as provide a peek into what lies ahead in 2016.

For attendees of the HPCC monthly meetings, several of these projects will be familiar given the series of presentations over the past six months. These events help to keep everyone up to date and provide the opportunity for us to solicit feedback and support from the community as we undertake new projects.

I spoke last year about the great strengths of our neighborhood—a 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 HPCDC is working in each of these target areas, guided by the mission to build on each of these assets, while also filling gaps created over the years by localized disinvestment and the shortsighted decisions of the past. In short, we do the projects that no one else can, thereby setting the stage for you and others to invest time and dollars to build and live with confidence around our projects.

**Residential:** The SW Quadrant remains a primary focus of our strategy, with our first project in this area now coming up on its 20th birthday. Turnaround is well underway in this corner of Highland Park, but needs remain and our work there is not yet done. The HPCDC acquired a very special building this year, the Coleman Apartment Building on Mellon Street, dating to 1906 and designed by one of Pittsburgh’s most distinguished architects, Frederick Scheibler, Jr.

Our plan is to work with a developer partner to restore the building while bringing three newly renovated condominium units to the street. Next door, on lots left vacant by major fires in the early 90’s, we are working with another developer who plans to bring a most unusual product to the single family market, a trio of for-sale houses that will reset the bar for sustainable construction in Highland Park. Built to “Passive House” standards, these houses must meet highly rigorous and
measurable performance metrics to earn this enviable certification. An interesting twist to the project will be the use of modular, offsite construction for the major building components, offering advantages for quality control and minimized onsite construction time.

**Bryant Street:**
The second phase of the CDC’s efforts on the street, the new mixed use building next to Park Bruges, has had a trying year but is now coming fully to life. At street level, La Vida Yoga opened in early April, and a big “welcome!” to Michelle is in order. We are talking with other business owners who also want to be part of the buzz on Bryant Street and we expect that other grand openings will be in the works for 2016. Upstairs, the six 2-BR townhouse apartments are all rented. Once spring arrived and the garage off the alley was completed these went very quickly. Bryant Street has become a great address for both businesses and residents. Next up for us will be the restoration of the two story brick building at the corner of Bryant and N. St. Clair. A few hurdles remain before a project start, but once cleared the three apartments and a new commercial storefront in this location will solidify the rejuvenation of our unique neighborhood commercial district.

**Highland Park:** We are now eighteen months past the ribbon cutting 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, and provides a suitable entry to the city, park, and Zoo. While the new bridge was a remarkable achievement, the most exciting aspects of this project are yet to come. Planning is underway right now for the trails, recreation and environmental improvements that we have all been looking forward to for many years. This article should be in your hands just a few days before an important neighborhood meeting on the project and I encourage each of you to take part. 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.

*See you in the neighborhood!*

David Hance, President
HPCDC

The HPCDC is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to making our neighborhood one of the best in the city. Though we do all of this work as volunteers, the operating costs of the HPCDC total more than $8,500 each year. Our track record shows that we leverage each and every dollar very effectively. **Would you consider a generous gift to support this important work?** Your gift is 100% tax deductible. Please mail to:
Highland Park Community Development Corporation, PO Box 4866, Pittsburgh 15206

Thank you for your support!
A spring morning in Highland Park finds every seat occupied at Tazza D'Oro, with patrons gathered outside at tables, standing, and leaning along a nearby wall. Inside, expertly trained baristas handle a growing line with efficient and friendly service.

In operation since 1999 (17 years), the cafe and espresso bar is not only a popular gathering place for the neighborhood, but also has become a destination for visitors from all over Pittsburgh. It wasn’t always that way.

In 1998, owner Amy Enrico began the challenging quest to open the cafe and espresso bar at 1125 N. Highland Avenue. The property had been operating as a pharmacy since the 1920’s, but had been all but abandoned. The boarded-up building had become a loitering spot with an overgrown backyard filled with trash and debris.

It is hard to believe now, but Enrico’s greatest challenge in restoring the vacant building to active use was resident opposition. The long abandonment caused the zoning designation to revert back to residential use and Enrico was required to obtain a variance. Two neighbors opposed the opening of the coffee shop, which led to months of setbacks for Enrico.

With the help of then-Pittsburgh City Councilman Jim Ferlo, Enrico met with community members on a weekly basis to identify and address neighborhood concerns. The Zoning Board approved the variance, but opposing neighbors fought the ruling forcing Enrico to seek approval a second time. Neighbors supporting Enrico packed the room and hallway of the hearing, standing room only. Although the board approved the variance again, Enrico faced two lawsuits and over a year in court battles with the opposing neighbors.

In April of 1999, after racking up thousands of dollars in legal fees, the way was finally cleared for Enrico to proceed. By June, she had gutted, renovated, furnished and opened the business. Tazza D’Oro flourished, thanks in part to the buzz created by the highly publicized zoning battle and a dedication to crafting the perfect cup of coffee and shot of espresso. The community, galvanized by the fight, developed a sense of ownership and fully supported the cafe.

Today, the cafe offers an unpretentious gathering place where a diverse cast of patrons enjoys coffee, food, and a monthly rotation of local artist exhibits. After hours, local groups use the space for activities and meetings.

The literal translation of Tazza D’Oro in Italian is “cup of gold”. The coffee lives up to the name. Enrico goes to great lengths to achieve that - from extensive barista training to a partnership with Counter Culture Coffee, who provides single origin and frequently exclusive coffee from farms all over the world. Selva Negra, a rare gesha plant coffee from El Salvador, is currently an exclusive offering at Tazza D’Oro.
They take coffee seriously. Tazza D’Oro baristas must become certified by completing a month of training, attending three labs provided by Counter Culture Coffee, and passing a written and practical exam taken in Philadelphia.

Enrico credits her success to good customer service and a quality product. Both are accomplished through long term and committed employees. Manager Zach Selekmann has been with Tazza D’Oro for nine years. Enrico notes “I pay a living wage and provide health insurance to employees.” Most of her employees live in the neighborhood, as does Enrico. “I like to create community. I hire people who live in the community, staying in the fabric of the community.”

Tazza D’Oro has been growing the food portion of its business and now offers baked treats, grab-n-go food, a Panini menu, tacos, catering, and brunch. Brunch is available on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM and includes such delectables as Smoked Gouda Polenta with scallions and prosciutto. Chef Nate Hunt, formerly of Point Brugge, has been guiding this effort since September. Enrico uses local farmers markets and other nearby sources for ingredients in an effort to support local economies. Taco Friday was introduced with great success last November by Chef Zack Shell, who dreams of owning a taco food truck some day and is taking steps toward that goal with the popular taco night.

The most noticeable change in Tazza D’Oro over the years, according to Enrico, has been the atmosphere in the cafe. With the advent of technology, patrons now sit as singletons at the tables with their laptops as silent companions. Back in the day, the conversations in the cafe created a significant noise level that is absent today.

The cultural shift has made Tazza D’Oro into somewhat of a small business incubator. “Many of these people are budding entrepreneurs using the cafe as their office,” observes Enrico.

When asked what she found most gratifying about her business, which expanded to a second location at Carnegie Mellon University in 2009, Enrico smiled and paused to collect her thoughts.

“I am the luckiest person in the world. The cafe has created friendships, connections, and has fostered a sense of belonging and community for me,” reflects Enrico. She cites examples of customers stopping in to introduce their newborns on the way home from the hospital, invitations to customer’s weddings, and formal acknowledgment in dissertations.

It seems that 17 years of serving up cups of gold has made Amy Enrico rich beyond words – rich in the community that Tazza D’Oro has created and nurtured.
Previously when residents called 311 and their information was entered into the system’s databases, 311 operators had to send the service requests to the appropriate city departments for action; clerks printed out the requests and placed them in piles for city crews to respond; and then clerks entered information on the response into a database and sent it back to 311.

The new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system will improve work-flow for 311 operators and workers on the ground.

For 311 operators the new system:
- Transitions from three separate databases to one
- Allows for better mapping and geo-routing
- Allows for better feedback and responses among city departments
- Integrates with the Allegheny County real estate site for correct property ownership information
- Integrates with the Allegheny County voter registration site to auto-fill customer names and addresses when possible

For workers at the Department of Public Works, Permits Licenses & Inspections, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and others who commonly respond to 311 requests the new system:
- Links multiple requests for the same issue (for instance, a pothole at a major intersection) into a single work order, rather than several work orders under the old system
- Provides maps for efficient routing
- Allows workers to update work requests from the field

The “MyBurgh” app connects mobile users directly with 311 services. The app will let users capture their locations via GPS, and allow them to track the progress or completion of previous service requests. The app also includes City news, contact information, refuse pick-up information, and seasonal tools such as the snow plow tracker.

It is available, for free, to both iPhone and Android users.

Residents can use either the new app or existing methods of calling or Tweeting the 311 office. But going forward the new software will allow them to create accounts to track submitted requests; receive calls, texts or emails updating the status of requests; and attach relevant photos or PDFs.
Are you confused about public school options in Pittsburgh? If so, you are not alone. Each year, hundreds of families are perplexed by the magnet and charter school system in Pittsburgh. While the process of finding a school in the City can be frustrating, it’s helpful to know that there are four types of public schools: neighborhood, partial magnet, full magnet and charter.

Every student is assigned to a neighborhood school by the student’s address. Neighborhood schools are also referred to as “feeder” schools. Addresses in the same area are grouped into a “feeder patterns” and assigned to the same neighborhood school. Students in Highland Park living east of Negley are assigned to Fulton K-5; students to the west of Negley are assigned to Sunnyside K-8 in Stanton Heights.

Magnet schools feature programs which allow students to pursue special interests, and they are open to students throughout the City. Students must apply to the school and are chosen through a weighted lottery system that includes factors such as sibling preference, geography, income and program continuity.

Partial magnet schools serve students in their feeder pattern but also offer special programming. At third grade, classrooms are organized by magnet or feeder enrollment. Partial magnets include Fulton (French) and Woolslair (STEAM). At full magnet schools like Dilworth K-5 and Obama 6-12, all students must apply to the school for admission. Other full magnet schools in the East End include Montessori K-5, Liberty K-5 (Spanish) and Linden K-5 (German/Mandarin).

While neighborhoods and magnet schools are managed by the School District, charter schools are run independently. They are funded through tax dollars and open to all City residents. The Environmental Charter School and the Urban Academy are popular options with their own application processes.

Visit discoverpps.org for a dashboard providing information on Pittsburgh Public Schools. A+ Schools publishes its ‘Report to the Community’ which provides a wealth of data on every public school in the City. While City residents have ample information available, the best way to learn about a school is to visit it. All the schools mentioned above offer tours, and the HPCC will be sponsoring its annual tour of Fulton this Fall.
All best wishes here in our Highland Park neighborhood as we move through spring and begin to think about all the good things to come in the summertime!

On Whitsunday, the Sunday of Pentecost, May 15, at 4:30 p.m., the St. Andrew’s Schola Cantorum will sing the last service of Choral Evensong for this Spring Season, and our Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Ted Babcock, Canon and Director of Administration of our Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Sunday services at St. Andrew’s will continue with the regular schedule—a simpler service at 9 a.m., a choral service at 11 a.m. – through Memorial Day weekend. Beginning on June 5 and then continuing through June, July, and August we shift to a “Summer Sunday Schedule,” with one Sunday morning service of the Holy Communion at 10 a.m. Our highly regarded Godly Play Children’s Program will continue through the 15th 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.

While you’re around St. Andrew’s this summer, be sure to stop in here at Brooks Hall to check the offerings (updated weekly!) in the annual Summer Used Book Sale. We know you’ll find just what you’re looking for in preparation for lazy hours at the shore, or in the shade of a tree up in our own Highland Park! Proceeds of the sale support our annual Fall St. Andrew’s Lecture Series and your contributions of gently used books, CD’s, and DVD’s (no VHS, textbooks, or magazines, please) are most welcome.

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 feel free to be in touch. 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 or check us out on the web: www.standrewspgh.org and www.facebook.com/StAndrewsEpiscopal.
Zone 5: 2nd Annual Open House

Zone 5 will be hosting our 2nd Annual Open House on Saturday, June 4th, from 12 Noon until 5:00 p.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.

The event will be held in the parking lot of Zone 5. We will have food, activities for the kids, and our specialty units (SWAT, K-9, Bomb Squad, Motorcycles) will be on display as well. We hope you can join us!
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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
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Amber Quick
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HPCC Committees
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Welcoming – Todd Shirley
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Let me help you with your real estate needs.

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.