

December 2016

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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Happy Holidays!

A Letter from the President

Hello Neighbors!

On behalf of the HPCC Board, I'd like to once again wish you a happy holiday season! I covered this in detail in last week's newsletter, but as we begin to see the first snow storms of the season, I'd like to offer a quick reminder about the City of Pittsburgh's Snow Angels program: If you or someone you know needs assistance keeping their sidewalk clear this winter, or if you'd like to volunteer to help shovel snow for neighbors who are elderly or disabled, the information on how to sign up is available in this newsletter.

2016 was an eventful year for the HPCC. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our board members and the support of the community, we hosted an extremely successful house tour, the second since the event was revived in 2014. The event brought thousands of people from around city, county, and region into Highland Park, allowing us to show off our beautiful neighborhood, as well as raise needed funds to support the HPCC. 2016 also saw the completion of the Highland Park Off Leash Exercise Area (OLEA), the initial community meeting to discuss the design of the Heth's Run Ecological and Recreational Restoration Project, and yet another successful summer event series, including the Highland Park Yard Sale, Bryant Street Festival, and Reservoir of Jazz.

2016 was also marked by significant internal transition for our organization. We amended our organization's bylaws to update and improve our rules and procedures, moved our fiscal year to align better with our funding cycle, breathed new life into our welcoming committee, and elected a new President, Vice President, and Secretary.

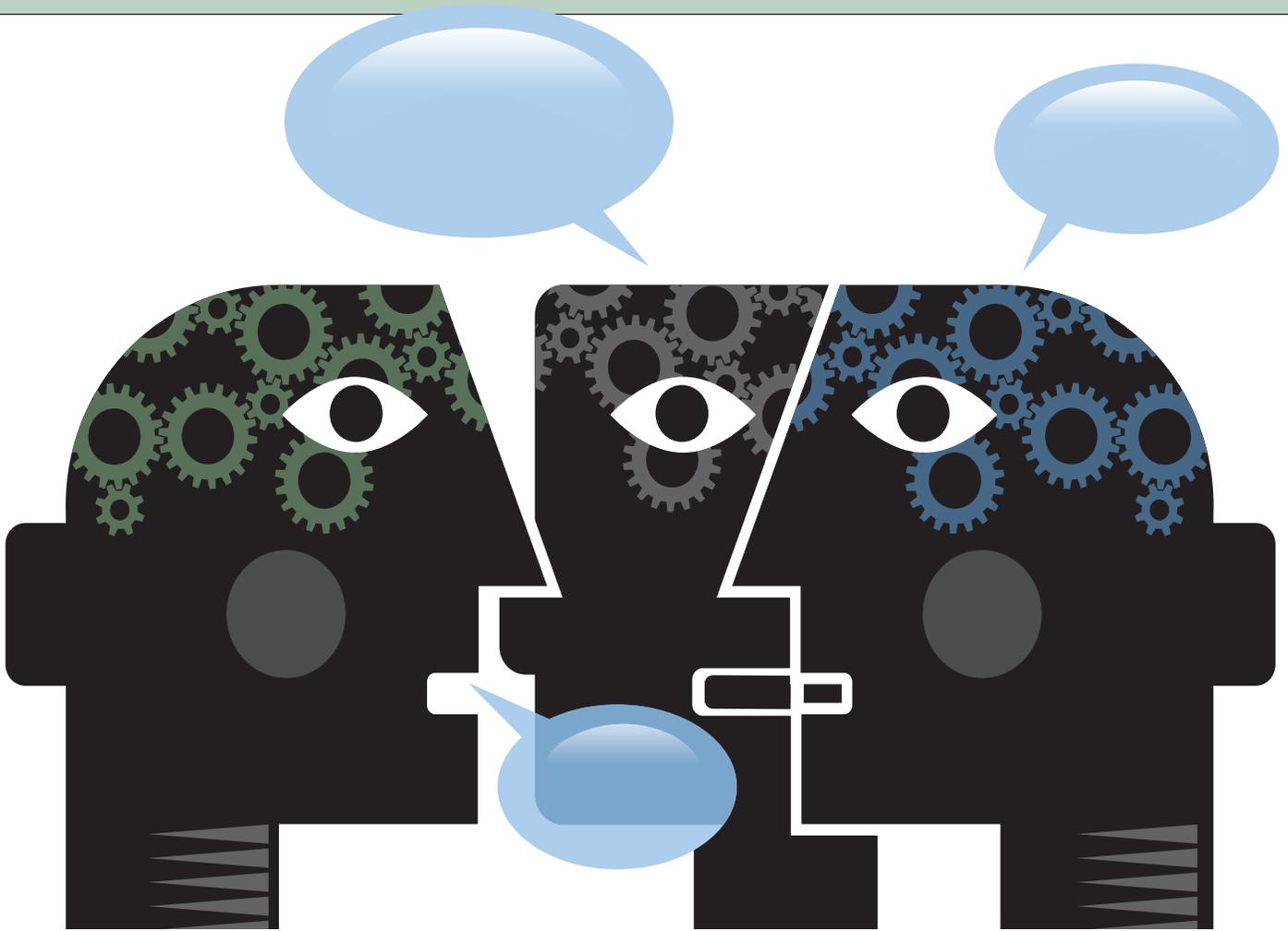
Next year is shaping up to be equally packed with exciting projects and initiatives. Planning is underway for a second Love Your Home event this winter, this time focusing on home renovations that can protect and improve your health. As a part of last year's bylaws amendment, we've also moved our Annual Meeting to June, and are planning to use the occasion to showcase and celebrate the many projects, initiatives, and activities that the HPCC undertakes on behalf of the community.

All of this work is only made possible by your support. If you haven't already, please consider joining the HPCC or renewing your membership. Your tax-deductible contribution enables us to organize events, host community conversations, and advocate for neighborhood issues. If you're interested in joining or renewing, or in making an additional donation to the HPCC, you can do so at hpccpgh.org.

Once again, happy holidays, and best wishes for a happy, safe, and prosperous new year. See you in 2017!

Jake Pawlak
HPCC President





HPCC November Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Zone 5 Pittsburgh Police gave an update on recent happenings in the neighborhood. There have been many car break-ins and a number of cars being stolen. Some of the stolen cars have occurred when someone has broken into a house and the car keys are sitting out in the open. The suspect has taken the keys / car when they leave. They suggest keeping your car keys out of view.

Julianne Reiland with the City Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections, gave a presentation on Buildingeye, the city's new web tool that allows all city residents to view and track information on zoning and building permits. The site allows you to track projects back a few years. A number of residents asked

how long permits are allowed to continue without obvious work being done. Julianne explained that after the financial crisis of 2008, a law was passed that allowed permits to last longer than usually permitted since some people may be having financial trouble. That law expired this summer so if you are aware of an old permit that is lingering without progress, you should call 311 and report it.

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT WEBSITE.](#)

The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be January 19 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church.

Become Someone's Snow Angel

Snow covered sidewalks can be hazardous for everyone. Pittsburgh Snow Angels is a program that helps minimize the hardships of winter by pairing volunteers with elderly or disabled residents to assist with snow removal.

Along with fostering stronger community relationships and relieving some of the stress that comes from a snow storm, Snow Angels makes our sidewalks safer for those who continue to serve despite the winter weather – like postal service workers, firemen, and police officers.

Sign up to be a volunteer by going to pittsburghpa.gov/mayor/snowangels/index.html

You can also request to have a Pittsburgh Snow Angel Volunteer help you this winter. To be matched with a Pittsburgh Snow Angel and receive assistance, residents must have a physical disability or be age 60 or older. In addition, residents must lack alternative snow removal resources and reside within the City of Pittsburgh.

Requests can be made by calling [412-475-2459](tel:412-475-2459) or sending a request in writing to:

Snow Angels Program
c/o Health Active Living Program
5344 Second Avenue, 2nd FL
Pittsburgh, PA 15207



**SNOW
ANGELS**

PWSA Winter Environmental Safety Tips

- When winterizing your vehicle, make sure to check for any fluid leaks. A drop of motor oil can pollute thousands of gallons of water and melting snow can carry car pollutants into storm drains, and eventually our waterways.
- Make sure to properly dispose of antifreeze and never dump antifreeze or any other chemical on the ground or down a storm drain.
- Go natural! In the event of freezing precipitation or snow, ask your local hardware store about eco-friendly de-icing products instead of rock salt, and always use it sparingly.

Meeting Reminder...

The PWSA District 7 Community Meeting on Lead in the water is Wednesday, January 4, 2017; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

It will be held at Teamsters Local 249, 4701 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

All Highland Park residents are encouraged to attend.

PGH₂O

Shop Local: Last Minute Gift Ideas

A reminder that many of our local businesses and restaurants offer gift certificates – the perfect way to spread some holiday cheer.

Joseph Tambellini Restaurant

Enrico's Tazza D'Oro

Park Bruges Cafe

Smiling Banana Leaf

Flatboat Fair Traders

Jeffery Smith Salon

Bryant St. Ltd.

Union Project



We can't blame you

for thinking you know all there is to know about your favorite beloved holiday flicks. After all, annual 24-hour marathons and Netflix access make it almost too easy to unintentionally learn every heartwarming and hilarious line.

But even the most diehard Christmas movie fanatics still have secrets to discover, from just how much actors went through to bring storybook characters to life, to the cameos you might have missed even on your 10th viewing.

1 Now a beloved classic, *It's a Wonderful Life* was a total box office flop when it was released in 1946.

2 Emma Thompson wore a fat suit while filming *Love Actually*.

3 Some of the Jean Shepherd stories that eventually made it to the *A Christmas Story* script were first published in *Playboy*.

4 Jim Carrey worked with a CIA specialist who trained agents to survive torture in order to get through the painful makeup process for *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

5 Then 8-year-old Natalie Wood believed her *Miracle on 34th Street* costar Edmund Gwenn was actually Santa Claus.

6 In *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, the flowing look of the Ghost of Christmas Past was achieved by submerging the puppet in a water tank.

7 According to *The Nightmare Before Christmas*'s supervising animator Eric Leighton, the film was shot at 24 frames per second, meaning the

characters had to be posed 24 different times for each second of the film.

8 An episode of MythBusters proved that a tongue can instantly get stuck to a freezing pole à la *A Christmas Story*.

9 Eagle-eyed viewers will spot a hidden Mickey Mouse logo when *The Santa Clause* characters Scott and Charlie pass by the moon in a sleigh.

10 Will Ferrell ate so much sugar while filming *Elf* that he had trouble sleeping.

11 John Candy shot all of his *Home Alone* scenes in one long 23-hour day on set.

12 Eric Lloyd, who played Charlie in *The Santa Clause*, broke his front teeth in a fall right before filming and had to wear prosthetics for the shoot.



13 A *Christmas Story* child star Peter Billingsley was the first of thousands to audition for the role.



14 Gonzo was originally going to portray Christmas Yet to Come in *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. He eventually took on the role of Charles Dickens because, as director Brian Henson said, he was “the least likely character to be Charles Dickens.”

15 *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer's* stop-motion animation was produced in Japan, while most of the audio was recorded in Canada.



16 The shots of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in *Miracle on 34th Street* are real: Star Edmund Gwenn actually took to a float as Santa for the 1946 celebration.

17 Jim Carrey was originally slated to star in *Elf*.

18 *The Santa Clause* joke involving “1-800-SPANK-ME” caused massive problems for parents when kids discovered it connected

them to an actual phone sex hotline. Some viewers who dialed the number reportedly racked up hundreds of dollars in phone bills.



19 Composer Danny Elfman still didn't have a script when it came time to write the music for *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, so he based his songs only on conversations with and sketches from director Tim Burton.

20 Grown-up *A Christmas Story* star Peter Billingsley has an uncredited cameo in *Elf*.

21 Vincent Price was considered for the part of *It's a Wonderful Life* villain Mr. Potter.

22 *The Grinch* was black-and-white in the original Dr. Seuss book, but director Chuck Jones had the idea to make him green for the 1966 animated feature.



23 After the release of *Home Alone 2*, families flocked to N.Y.C.'s Plaza Hotel, where they could recreate Kevin's adventure in Suite 411, “Kevin's Suite,” for \$1,100 a night.

24 Writer Richard Curtis first conceived *Love Actually* as two separate films, and had planned entire movies following the storylines of Hugh Grant and Colin Firth's characters.

25 *It's A Wonderful Life* was named the most inspirational film of all time by the American Film Institute.

26 It took *The Nightmare Before Christmas* team an entire week to finish shooting each minute of the completed film.

27 Macaulay Culkin's little brother Kieran had a small role as Kevin's bed-wetting cousin in *Home Alone* and *Home Alone 2*.



28 Flash Gordon made an appearance in a deleted fantasy scene from *A Christmas Story*.

29 Despite being a holiday movie, *Miracle on 34th Street* hit theaters in May, because 20th Century Fox studio

head Darryl Zanuck believed more people went to the movies in the summer.



30 *Rudolph* creator Robert May considered the names Reginald and Rollo for the reindeer.



AROUND ST.ANDREW'S

Just a reminder for all in Highland Park that want to celebrate the holiday with us; we will have two services on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, with the 4:30 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion to include the Blessing of the Creche, familiar carols, and the Rector's Children's Sermon. The traditional Midnight Service begins by candlelight at 10:30 p.m. with Service of Music for harp, organ, and Choir, featuring guest-artist Sierra Pastel, and with a choral service of the Holy Communion following at about 11 p.m. A Christmas Morning service of Holy Communion will take place at 10 a.m. on Sunday, December 25, with organ, carols, and hymns - and followed by a Christmas Morning Coffee Hour.

St. Andrew's, in the 5800 block of Hampton Street, has been in ministry in the heart of this neighborhood of Highland Park for over a century. If you have a pastoral concern we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor who would appreciate a visit and a blessing, a family to comfort at the time of the death of a loved one - or if you simply would like to borrow a table, please feel free, whatever your religious background or heritage may be, to give our Church Office a call at 412-661-1245 - or to check us out our redesigned website, standrewspgh.org. We're always glad to hear from you, and to help if we can.

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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Janine Seale

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Yard Sale – Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Welcoming – Todd Shirley

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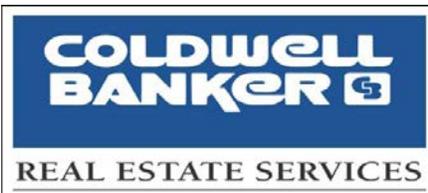
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