Hello Neighbors!

Another Highland Park Yard Sale and Bryant Street Festival are in the books, and as always (even despite the rain), both events were huge successes! Over 140 households hosted sales in their yards or at the flea market on Bryant Street, and once again the Bryant Street festival brought us fantastic performances, activities, vendors, and food. I’d like to give a big thanks to Paul Miller for leading the charge to organize the Yard Sale, and Bob Staresinic for doing the same for the Bryant Street Festival. I hope you’ll join me in extending our gratitude to Paul, Bob, and all of the other volunteers who put in the ton of work necessary to make these events so successful.

The HPCC also hosted a table at the Zone 5 Police Station’s Community Open House on Saturday June 3rd, and I’d like to thank Jessica Acrie for organizing our participation there.

For those who weren’t able to make it out to these fantastic events, here are some photos:

None of the activities, initiatives, or spectacular events that the HPCC organizes would be possible without the support of our members, so if you’re not already a HPCC member, please consider joining or renewing your membership today. If you are already a member, we greatly appreciate your continued support and confidence.

See you around the neighborhood this summer!

Best,

Jake Pawlak
HPCC President
Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by HPCC president Jake Pawlak

General HPCC update by Jake:
- Membership renewals will be going out in the fall. If you are concerned about whether you have paid your dues, please contact us and we can check.

Police Zone 5 Update by Lt. Matt Gauntner
- The Annual Zone 5 Open House will be held on Saturday June 3rd
- Zone 5 updated its email blast system. If you believe that your email address somehow got missed during the conversion, the newsletter has an article on how to sign up.
- There was an armed robbery reported in Highland park, but the suspect has been apprehended
- A Resident in attendance asked about the activity at the police shooting range
  - City Police are conducting lowlight training in the early morning or evening
  - Increased daylight activity is due to enhanced training techniques and several new officers in training

Demi Kolke, Neighborhood Planner with the City of Pittsburgh
- Neighborhood Planners are part of the Department of City Planning
  - Demi is responsible for the East End of the city
- Serve as a resource for the neighborhood and neighborhood organizations
- Part of the job is to listen to the community and hear from the neighborhood to discover our needs
- Facilitate communication and planning for large scale development
  - For a largely residential neighborhood like Highland Park this can mean providing information to HP about surrounding areas with upcoming projects, including the addition/upgrade of Zoo signage
  - Resident pointed out that often people end up at the end of Negley looking for the zoo and that residents often end up giving them directions because of the lack of signage
- Questions for attendees
  - How will residents be informed?
    - Demi will reach out to main points of contact with the community groups (HPCC, HPCDC)
  - What about development in other communities?
    - Demi can pass on information about adjacent communities when the issue could be of interest to residents of Highland Park
Installing Green Infrastructure solutions has a triple bottom-line benefits – Environmental, Social and Economic

City wide scale
- Working on downspout disconnect policy now
- Align plans with complete streets approach
- Create Bioswales and green alleys
- Improve streets
- Develop subsurface storage – ex: using space below sports fields
- Constructed wetlands

Residential solutions
- Rain gardens, cisterns and rain barrels, installing permeable pavement

Next Steps
- Create implementation plan from the completed urban plan working with the sewer shed manager, Ryan Quinn

Questions:
- Plans to encourage/incentivize homeowners?
  - There is no homeowner assistance program yet
    - Stormworks can be used as a resource
    - Will consider sharing information and tips on PWSA website
- Problems with Washington Blvd?
  - Many issues:
    - Large watershed, with a lot of sediment
    - Greater distance from Alcosan
    - Increase in the impervious footprint of the watershed
    - Storms themselves are changing and intensifying – flash flooding
  - Working with the Army Corp of Engineers with section 219 funding
  - Larimer redevelopment is a great opportunity to improve this area by diverting the water and preventing it from reaching Washington Blvd. with permeable surfaces

- Our current infrastructure:
  - 80% is combined sewer overflow system
  - Waste water is disposed in the same place, with a weir wall diverting sewage to Alcosan for treatment
  - Heavy rains can cause water levels to raise above the weir wall leading sewage to enter the rivers without being diverted to Alcosan
- Green Infrastructure is defined by the EPA as an approach to water management that protects, restores or mimics the natural water cycle.
- Pittsburgh has 90 sewer sheds
  - Analysis identified 6 priority sheds, 2 which contain parts of Highland Park
• Is there a way to give a map to citizens so that we can know where we get our water from?
  – Interim CEO of PWSA says they are working with emergency personnel to integrate with their communication systems to better communicate in emergency situations
  – Can provide a map on their website
• Is Mellon Terrace being considered for Green Infrastructure improvements?
  – It is in the capital budget for improvements, but its priority has shifted. It may take a few years to see progress on this project, but the road should be getting paved this year
• What can we do about debris in catch basins?
  – Above/on the street is the city’s responsibility
  – Below the street is PWSA’s responsibility
  – Call PWSA dispatch to add the catch basin
    • If a particular area has many calls, it could be added to a frequently clean out list
  – You can use #drainspotting on twitter too
• How does permeable paving hold up during freeze/thaw cycles?
  – The allow space for air flow. This void space is designed to handle icy conditions
• Is PWSA conducting lead testing in our local schools?
  – No. This is the school’s responsibility
  – It is likely that any lead problems in the schools are caused by old water fountains and not the service line
  – Schools are replacing or have already replaced many of these old fountains
• Is there any way to shorten the testing process so that citizens can get their results more quickly?
  – PWSA is working to streamline their process
  – There was a deluge of samples and testing request and they are working through a backlog
  – PWSA is hiring more staff to complete testing
• The Reservoir is looking murky? What’s going on?
  – PWSA met with the state DEP recently and they agreed to restart the facility
  – They are negotiating what conditions are necessary to use the facility
  – Once approved, the water will be flushed and treated to remove the murkiness
• What’s going on with the temporary pumps by HP2?
  – PWSA is isolating different sections of pipe for repairs
  – Pumps should be gone sometime in June
• There were dead ducklings in the reservoir. What happened?
  – This does tend to happen in the spring time. Ducks get into the reservoir and can’t get back out
  – PWSA does conduct necropsies on animals found in the reservoir, which has shown that the animals starved because they could not get out to get food
  – Working on additional signage so residents will know who to call if you see an animal who is trapped
• With all the recent incidents, what is PWSA doing to show that they are still credible?
  – Working to improve communication with public
  – Increasing the communications department, using twitter
  – Working on outreach and community engagement like this meeting
• Calling PWSA can be frustrating. Are you doing anything to improve that system?
  – PWSA is working to get a new phone system where you can leave your number and you are called back in order without having to stay on the line
  – Increasing the customer service staff who can receive calls
  – Currently have hired new temporary staff and are training them
• Is there a way to give a map to citizens so that we can know where we get our water from?
For those of you in Highland Park who like to garden and play in the dirt, as I do, I’ve listed the places I enjoy browsing and shopping. These places are all unique in their own ways.

For example, *Hahns Nursery*, besides selling annuals, has a large selection of bushes and shrubs. Their perennial selection is pretty good too. They have a nice array of fertilizers and things to control insects. And they have a Wish List. Call or visit them with a specific plant request and when they get it in they will call you. (This actually works, I’ve done it.)

If you want a large selection of colorful annuals, *Brenckels* is the place to go. They have a small selection of bushes and shrubs and a decent number of perennials. In the summer they have vegetables they sell inside the area of the cash register.

*Micahel Brothers* is also a go-to place for annuals and perennials. Their staff is usually around and they are very helpful. Michaels has a great selection of garden tchotchkes too! Don’t be deterred by the long drive to get there. It’s worth the ride.
**Mctighes** is a great place for annuals and herbs. They have a fair selection of bushes, shrubs and perennials. They also have a limited amount of fertilizers and insect control products.

All of these places sell vegetable plants. Some, when they sell out of a plant, don't get them back in stock, so it is first come, first served.

**Enjoy your summer and play in the dirt!**

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**Hahn Nursery**

[www.hahnnursery.com](http://www.hahnnursery.com)

5443 Babcock Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

(412) 635-7475

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**Brenckles Nursery and Greenhouse**

[www.brenckles.com](http://www.brenckles.com)

3814 Mount Troy Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

(412) 821-2566

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**Michael Brothers Nursery**

[www.michaelbrosnursery.com](http://www.michaelbrosnursery.com)

47 Michael Rd, Russellton, PA 15076

(724) 265-1222

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**Glenshaw Feed and Garden Center**

[www.bakerstownfeed.com](http://www.bakerstownfeed.com)

1645 Butler Plank Rd, Glenshaw, PA 15116

(412) 487-5559

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**Mctighes Garden Center**

William Flynn Hwy,
Glenshaw, PA 15116

(412) 486-1909
Clues that something was afoot at 5904 Bryant St. began several weeks ago with the arrival of exterior seating and cryptic handwritten signage.

Then, the dark exterior of the former E2 restaurant changed into a colorful facade reminiscent of a French cafe.

Plate & Bowl is opening in the space in the coming weeks once occupancy permits are finalized. The restaurant will offer American fare with Asian infusions, along with fresh juice and smoothies. Chef Michael “Buzz” Olshansky describes the offerings as “comfort food and grain bowls”. Jane Chounaem, owner of Smiling Banana Leaf, is the owner of Plate & Bowl. Olshansky and Highland Park resident Steve Bland will be operating the eatery.

Chef Michael is committed to sustainable and locally grown foods citing an example of his meat source - a farm with 20 years of grass feeding their stock. The grain bowls (Buddha bowls) will include such ingredients as fermented buckwheat, millet, and quinoa, along with vegetables, fish, beef, pork belly, and more. He is a self-described “forager” and will be changing the menu on a seasonal basis to include whatever interesting ingredients he finds. Vegetation waste will be recycled and converted into premium topsoil by Steel City Soils.

Plate & Bowl Opening Soon on Bryant Street

By Karin Manovich
With over 30 years of restaurant experience, Chef Michael’s resume includes Umami, Twisted Thistle, Penn Avenue Fish Market and Typhoon - to name a few. Chounaem, who is also his sister-in-law, recruited him to Plate & Bowl.

Steve Bland has lived in Highland Park on and off most of 15-years. “I’ve known the owner of the Smiling Banana Leaf since she opened. Recently I closed my restaurant (Umbrella Cafe) in downtown Pittsburgh. I mentioned to Jane that I was looking for my next opportunity and she asked me to join her in this new adventure”.

Bland’s role is to support Chef Michael in planning the menu and preparing for opening. He will be providing fresh juices, cold drinks and smoothies for customer daily consumption.

“Plate & Bowl will be a neighborhood place. We’ll always remember your name!” says Bland.

Renovations to the building are credited to Thibalt “Oz” Chounaem, Jane’s husband. He is also responsible for the gleaming hand-made tables and repurposed barrels that have transformed the downstairs space into an inviting and fresh cafe. “This area was underutilized in the past,” notes Chef Michael. The lower floor will be open as a cafe with a juice bar.

Plate & Bowl is scheduled to open by the end of June. The restaurant will be BYOB, and will always include vegan and vegetarian options on the menu. Information about the opening of Plate & Bowl and operating hours can be found at www.facebook.com/plateandbowl.
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation Walking Tours

**DOWNTOWN’S BEST**
As you tour the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh, you’ll see more than 25 architectural landmarks, spectacular interiors and significant urban spaces. The tour unfolds in a six-chapter story, based on the sequence of places that you explore with your guide. And, you’ll receive one of PHLF’s complimentary guidebooks, Whirlwind Walk: Architecture and Urban Spaces in Downtown Pittsburgh, to help you remember all that you learned.

Contact Mary Lu Denny at marylu@phlf.org. to make a reservation for Downtown’s Best, our popular two-hour walking tour on any Thursday, June through August, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

**FREE FRIDAY WALKING TOURS**
Explore Downtown Pittsburgh on Free Friday Walking Tours: June 16, 23, 30

Bridges & River Shores from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. Meeting location: 107 Sixth Street, in front of the Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel

Market Square Area from Noon to 1:00 P.M. Meeting location: PNC Triangle Park (across from Fairmont Pittsburgh at 510 Market Street)

Reservations are appreciated: marylu@phlf.org.

**Market Square Place, including the PNC YMCA, 46 loft apartments and commercial space, is one of many preservation success stories shared during PHLF’s free-Friday walking tours in the Market Square area, beginning at Noon.**
**MYTH:** Pine needles make the soil more acidic (low pH).

The notion that pine needles change the soil pH so that nothing will grow or that it will damage plants has been out there for years. While it is true that pine needles have a low pH when they drop from a tree, the slight change that would make to the soil would not damage plants. The pine needles begin to break down naturally and the microbes (decomposers) in the soil will neutralize them. So, you can leave them there. They are a good mulching material that will keep the moisture in, suppress weeds and eventually add nutrients back to the soil. If you are having difficulty growing other plants under your pine trees it is likely due to the fact that evergreen roots are numerous and shallow and compete for water and nutrients. The shady conditions under a tree can also make growing other plants a challenge.

**MYTH:** Natural Pesticides are better than synthetic pesticides

Pesticides may be against the spirit of organic gardening, but garden center shelves are full of organic treatments for insects, slugs and fungi. Although they are labelled “natural”, that doesn’t make them friendly to the environment and organic is not necessarily safe. (Snake venom is organic but not necessarily safe to humans and animals). A common organic bug killer is pyrethrum, made from an extract of chrysanthemum. Natural it may be; discriminating it is not. It will kill beneficial ladybirds and bumblebees as easily as it kills asparagus beetle. The idea behind organic gardening is good but, when you talk about pesticides, just because something is organic it is not necessarily safe. Every pesticide must be examined individually.

**MYTH:** When you plant a new tree or shrub, dig the hole and add an amendment to the soil before you backfill the hole.

Although amendment of soil with organic matter is often a good idea, it should be done on an area-wide basis, not just in a planting hole for an individual plant. Adding an organic amendment to the soil only in the planting hole will tend to reduce growth of the plant. This happens because roots may stay within the amended soil and not grow into the native
soil, creating a root-bound plant within the amended soil. If the organic amendment is not completely decomposed it may require nitrogen for further decomposition, which will compete with plant roots for minerals, thereby resulting in reduced growth. And in the case of large shrubs or trees, decomposition of the amendment will cause the plant to settle and the root collar will sink below the soil.

**MYTH:** Change potting soil in containers every season.

There is a growing consensus that discarding potting soil each year is probably overkill for most container plants. A valid and affordable alternative is to simply work in a little compost from year to year to improve the soil structure and provide added nutrients. But if you’re growing a rare or cherished plant you’d hate to lose to disease, it’s worth the investment to change the potting soil annually.

**MYTH:** Lime will remove moss from your lawn.

Lime will not fix the problem. Moss prefers to grow in wet, shady conditions. Lawns with moss need more sunlight, i.e. trimming, pruning and thinning trees. If you like the trees the way they are you will continue to have moss and you should think about shade-tolerant alternatives to grass. Moss also grows well in infertile soils, which includes acidic (low pH) soils, but more importantly it also includes nitrogen-deficient soils. Lawns, like a lot of cultivated plants prefer nitrogen-rich soils. Regular fertilizer applications (four applications per year, two in the fall and two in the spring) with products containing nitrogen, combined with improved sunlight will result in a green, dense lawn that can out compete moss.

The Highland Park Garden Club is a group of gardening enthusiasts that meet on a regular basis to study gardening. We use our resources to help Highland Park with beautification projects that benefit the entire community and promote environmentally sound gardening practices.

In May, we collaborated with Bryant Street Merchants to provide flower containers to beautify our growing local business district. We would like to thank the following for their support with this project:

- Joseph Tambellini Restaurant
- Lou Iezzi and Sons Auto
- Tappanyaki Kyoto Restaurant
- Park Place Pub
- Jeffrey Smith Salon
- Bryant Street Market
- Flatboat Fair Traders
- Gallery Ama

Don’t the gardens at the entrance to Highland Park look fabulous? The Garden Club works with Angela Yeule from the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to weed the gardens so they continue to provide enjoyment to all. We are always looking for volunteers to help on “Weeding Wednesdays”. Angela is a great resource for us and is always willing to answer gardening questions. We meet at the entrance garden from 5 - 7 p.m. and this year’s Weeding Wednesdays dates are:

- June 14 & 28
- July 12 & 26
- August 9 & 23
- September 6 & 20
- October 4 & 18

If you have questions or are interested in joining the Highland Park Garden Club, please send an e-mail to jcontis@gmail.com.
Highland Park Volunteer Sweeps

Thursday, June 22, 2017
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Join Parks Conservancy staff in Highland Park for these regularly scheduled group volunteer events! At volunteer sweeps, a small group of volunteers (typically five to 15) better the health of the park by cutting vines, pulling invasive plants and clearing trash. Projects vary by season.

Tools, gloves and training are provided. Please note: these volunteer days meet at the Highland Park Entry Garden.

Sign-up for the Pittsburgh Zone 5 Police Community Crime Report

The weekly report from Commander Jason Lando has a new format. Sign up for the email report by going to http://pittsburghpa.gov/police/zone5 and filling out a simple form. You will receive emails on Mondays highlighting the past week’s major incidents. Zone 5 also maintains a very active Facebook page which can be found here: www.facebook.com/PghPoliceZone5/
We also each year enjoy a fun “St. Andrew’s Day” at PNC Park. We note that on Sunday afternoon, August 6th, our Pittsburgh Pirates are scheduled to defeat the San Diego Padres at 1:35 p.m. Please call the Church Office if you’d like to claim a ticket or two ($18).

St. Andrew’s with our Choir and Choristers offering opportunities for learning and expression in sacred music for children, youth and adults and our highly regarded Children’s “Godly Play” and “Tween” and Youth Group programs, our midweek services and adult Bible Studies, etc., will all resume our regular fall schedule on our “Round Up Sunday,” September 10—a day traditionally celebrated with a Parish Picnic in the Hampton Street Churchyard. All are invited!

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, check us out on the web at www.standrewspgh.org, and “Like” us on Facebook.
KITCHEN NOW OPEN!

5308 BUTLER ST. PITTSBURGH, PA
Monday-Thursday 4-11PM, Friday 4-12PM,
Saturday 12AM-12PM
SHORT FILM ABOUT HIGHLAND PARK
Soon to be out! Stay tuned!

Nevena Staresinic
Realtor®
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Coldwell Banker Real Estate Services
Shadyside Office
nevena@moderna.us
412-535-2616 (Cell)
412-363-4000 (Office)

Staging Tips:
CURB APPEAL
MAKE NEEDED REPAIRS - cosmetic & other
DE-CLUTTER
DE-PERSONALIZE
NEUTRALIZE with warm paint colors
GET NATURAL LIGHT in
SCALE DOWN furniture

HPCC Officers
President
Jake Pawlak (412) 478-7769
Vice President
Scott Dietrich
Treasurer
Paul Miller (412) 365-0675
Secretary
Christine Adams

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
 Newsletter – Monica Watt (412) 980-4208
 editor@highlandparkpa.com
 Nominating – Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972
 OLEA – Todd Shirley
 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

HPCC Directors
Dave Atkinson
Jessica Bowser
Karina Manovich
James McAdams
Amber Quick
Janine Seale
Todd Shirley
Kelly Vitti
Monica Watt
Stephanie Walsh
We Get Homes Sold!
2 Heads are Better than 1
Contact Us…We Are Available!!