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Hello Neighbors!

Fall has arrived in Highland Park, bringing us into the home stretch of what has been a very busy year for the HPCC. Below are some updates on two of the major issues that we’ve been discussing at our monthly HPCC Community Meetings lately:

Negley Avenue Bike Lanes

Beginning later this month, the City will be installing bike lanes on Negley Avenue from Howe Street in Shadyside to Stanton Avenue, at the edge of Highland Park and East Liberty. The city presented on this project at an HPCC meeting in early 2016, and came up again at our August 2017 meeting. Work is likely to conclude sometime in October. Because the bike lanes stop at Stanton Avenue, no parking spaces will be lost on the Highland Park portion of Negley, but if you use Negley to get in and out of the neighborhood, you may experience some temporary traffic impacts while the work is ongoing.

Once complete, the new lanes will connect Highland Park cyclists to East Liberty and Shadyside, as well as the East Busway. Happy cycling!

BRT

At the HPCC’s March Community Meeting, we heard from County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, the Port Authority, and the Department of City Planning concerning the Port Authority’s plans to establish a Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) connecting several East End neighborhoods. At that time, several route options were being considered, one of which would include a BRT branch route servicing Highland Park. This summer, based on the feedback received at numerous community meetings (including ours), the Port Authority formally selected the option that includes Highland Park, and applied for federal funding for the project. Representatives from the Port Authority and the City’s newly created Department of Mobility and Infrastructure are on the agenda for our October Community Meeting to provide an update on the project, as well as gather feedback on the next stage of the design process, which includes the location and configuration of BRT stops.

If you don’t usually attend our monthly meetings, please consider joining us for one soon! As the updates above demonstrate, these meetings are great opportunities to learn about, discuss, and make your voice heard on important issues in our community. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month (except July and December) at 7 p.m. in Barley Hall at St. Andrew’s Church on Hampton Street.

You’ll also have an opportunity to make your voice heard on Nov. 7th, which is general election day in Pennsylvania. As a non-partisan, non-profit organization, the HPCC does not endorse candidates or engage in campaign activity, but we do strongly encourage Highland Park residents to vote and to participate in the electoral process.

The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, October 10th. Pennsylvania voters can register to vote online through the PA Voter Registration portal. 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, October 31st. 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 PA Dept. of State website.

See you around the neighborhood this fall!

Best,

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

Senator Ed Gainey had planned to attend and speak, but unfortunately, he had to cancel.

Jeffrey Dorsey, Union Project
• Union Project has created over 130 jobs
• They believe art can create change and help us build a more inclusive, empathetic and just community
• Please donate to the Union Project to support the programs that happen in our neighborhood. Donations are accepted online at www.unionproject.org/support or through the mail.
• Some of the improvements that have been recently made to the Union Project include:
  – Renovated front steps
  – ADA bathrooms
  – They are starting to get bids for the kin shelter they presented previously
• Artist in Residence update - This residency provides the opportunity for an emerging artist to focus on their artwork and build their body of work, while taking part in a thriving ceramics community and serving the greater Pittsburgh community through teaching community arts programs and classes.
  • Pittsburgh will be hosting the National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts from March 14-17th. More information on NCECA can be found at www.nceca.net/2018-pittsburgh-pennsylvania/.

Capital Project Survey Results, Jake Pawlak
• Highland Park Community Council asked community members to take a survey to help decide what capital projects should be requested for Highland Park in the City’s 2018 budget. The survey was available from June 7-20th. If you would like more information regarding the survey, please visit our website.
  • The results are as follows:
    – Heth’s Run Project 22%
    – Street Light Improvement 17%
    – Lake Carnegie 17%
    – Super Playground Restoration 14%

Meeting adorned at 8:15 p.m.
An Update from PWSA

PWSA and DEP are continuing to perform required testing and sampling at Highland Reservoir 1 before putting the reservoir back in service. It will remain offline for at least another month or two, and Highland Reservoir 2 continues to serve as a sufficient alternative for water distribution during this time.

East Liberty Valley Historical Society Speakers Series

First Fridays this Fall/Winter
East Liberty Presbyterian Church
116 N. Highland Avenue, Room 234
7:30 p.m.
Free to the Public

OCTOBER 6
“Allegheny Valley: Its Industry and Its Railroads”
Speaker: Kenneth Kobus
Author, Steel and Railroad History; Photographer

NOVEMBER 3
“The Forsythe Log House: The Mystery of an East End Landmark”
Speaker: George Clark
Vice-Pres., East Liberty Valley Historical Society and East Liberty/East End History Enthusiast

DECEMBER 1
“In Plain Sight Redux: More Fragments of a Vanished East End”
Speaker: Justin Greenawalt
M.S. Historic Preservation; Pres., East Liberty Valley Historical Society; Board of Directors, Preservation Pittsburgh
We have recently received some complaints about cars, basketball hoops, and other various items being parked on or placed on neighborhood sidewalks. I thought it might be good to share a few city codes that cover sidewalks to make sure everyone is aware of the rules.

There are a few places in code that address cars and sidewalk safety. Although basketball hoops are not called out specifically, the Dept. of Public Works confirmed that basketball hoops are NOT allowed to be placed on the sidewalk in the city. Zone 5 police suggest calling 311 to report any issues of this type and they will follow up on them as needed.

SECTION 541.02
Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to protect the safety of any person or vehicle or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, no operator of a vehicle shall, and no owner of a vehicle shall allow the vehicle to:

(A)
Stop, stand or park a vehicle:

2) On a sidewalk except that a pedalcycle may be parked as provided in Vehicle Code 3509(b)(2).

§ 417.05 - DEPOSITS ON SIDEWALKS.

(a) No person shall deposit on any public sidewalk any material which may be harmful to the pavement thereof, or any waste material, glass or other articles which might cause injury to persons, animals or property.

(b) Merchandise or other articles may be deposited on sidewalks preparatory to delivery, provided that the usable width of the sidewalk is not reduced to less than five (5) feet and that no articles shall remain more than one (1) hour on the walk.
Despite the longtime curbside tradition, using blue bags actually slows down Pittsburgh’s recycling program. According to Pennsylvania Resources Council western regional director Justin Stockdale, plastic bags interfere with the material’s sorting and makes the sorting machine less effective.

Since the city changed from duel stream recycling to single stream, recycling may be easier for the consumer, but is more difficult for the facilities sorting the materials. Using blue plastic bags can make the process even slower.

The city first implemented its recycling program in the 1990s in compliance with the state’s Act 101, which required municipalities to provide recycling to residents. Back then, other cities around the country were using blue plastic bags to bring attention to the initiative.

“The tool for consumers to set out their recycling was in a plastic bag,” Stockdale said. “In the era, it was the standard nationally.”

City of Pittsburgh Environmental Services is now encouraging residents to use plastic blue bins because it cuts down on use of plastic bags and is better for the environment. However, they will still accept blue bags if residents prefer to use those.

If you would like to purchase a plastic blue bin, Home Depot has many options online that you can ship to your home or pick-up in the store.

Photo by Peter Kaminski

BRING OUT THE BINS:
Blue Recycling Bags Are On Their Way Out

Courtesy of WESA
To clean out or not clean out the garden. That is the question!

There are two schools of thought about spent plants in the fall. One is that they should all be ripped up and disposed of in order to reduce the workload for next year’s spring garden. The other is that spent plants should be left in place to biodegrade and provide a winter habitat for bees, butterflies and birds. There is no right answer here, but be careful if you take the biodegrade route; some plants, especially coneflowers and black-eyed Susans, can reseed excessively when not cut back. And while we may enjoy seeing the birds eating seeds through the winter, seeds also draw mice and moles.

You can think of fall as the end of this year’s growing season or as the start of next year’s growing season. As you close down your garden for the year, there are a couple of things to think about that will help make your yard healthier and ready for a fabulous spring.
Plant and divide

This is a good time to divide spring blooming plants such as iris and dianthus and those that bloom later like daylilies, coneflowers and yarrow. Fall is also a safe time to plant or transplant trees and shrubs and a good time to plant spring blooming bulbs and lilies.

Many nurseries put their stock on sale in the fall to avoid storing it over the winter. You can save 40% to 50% off the price of plants, grass seed and even tools. Don’t worry if plants have a few brown leaves. To check their health, remove them from their pots and make sure the roots are vibrant and not mushy.

Another option is to skip the nursery and get your plants for free. Fall is the best time to “divide” spring-flowering perennials such as day-lilies and peonies. You can literally cut a piece, roots and all, off your favorite specimens from the yards of friends and neighbors (with permission, of course) and pick a spot for them in your yard. This process is beneficial to the original plant and something colorful that would otherwise set you back $10 to $20 or more.

Just make sure to get everything in the ground at least six weeks before the average first ground-freeze date which is October 26 for Pittsburgh.

Weeding Wednesdays

In addition to our gardens we also help keep the Highland Park gardens looking fabulous throughout the growing season. Our final Weeding Wednesdays for the year are from 5 - 7 p.m. on October 4 and 18.

Hope to see you there.

For information on the Highland Park Garden Club, email jcontis@gmail.com.
Sept. 28, 2017
7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Neil Faulkner, Research Fellow at the University of Bristol, Editor of Military History Monthly, and Co-director of the Great Arab Revolt Project (in Jordan) and the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (in Norfolk, England).

Join us at the Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for the upcoming lecture Lawrence of Arabia’s War: The Arabs, the British, and the Remaking of the Middle East in World War I on Thurs., Sept. 28, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Knox Room, Long Hall. The Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology will be open from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and after the lecture.

The lecture and reception to follow are free and open to the public.

When the First World War began in 1914, the Middle East had been ruled by the Ottoman Turks for 400 years. Between 1914 and 1918, military campaigns by British regular forces and Arab Bedouin guerrillas caused the collapse of Ottoman rule across the region.
A string of great cities, including Jerusalem and Damascus, fell successively to the allied forces. Over the next three years, a new Middle East was created—a Middle East forged by British and French imperialism, Arab nationalism and Zionism. The region has remained in turmoil ever since. A young Oxford archaeologist and wartime soldier, T. E. Lawrence, played a pivotal role in these events and, as “Lawrence of Arabia,” was destined to become a legendary war hero and international celebrity. His reputation and iconic status have been disputed ever since. Is the legend a myth? Was Lawrence, as some claim, a liar, a charlatan and a self-promoting imposter? Or does the legend reflect reality? Was he, in fact, a brilliant military commander and a sincere advocate of the Arab national cause?

The Arab Revolt of 1916 to 1918 provides the historical context for the legend. The numerous well-preserved archaeological remains of the conflict, strewn mainly along the line of the former Hijaz Railway, became the focus of a 10-year program of field research led by Dr. Neil Faulkner and his colleague from the University of Bristol, Professor Nicholas Saunders. The results of their work have broken new ground in testing the veracity of Lawrence’s great war memoir (*Seven Pillars of Wisdom*) and shedding fresh light on the entire conflict that raged in Sinai, Arabia, Palestine and Syria during World War I.

Drawing on the results of fieldwork in the deserts of southern Jordan, Dr. Faulkner, author of *Lawrence of Arabia’s War*, will review the “celebrity cult” around T. E. Lawrence, assess the character and contribution of the man behind the image, and provide a compelling new analysis of the war that transformed the region a century ago.
October 7-8, 2017

Doors Open Pittsburgh (DOP) is an annual two-day event that provides unique access to explore and experience a collection of iconic and newly designed buildings in select neighborhoods of Pittsburgh – Downtown, Northside and the Strip District. For the inaugural event in 2016, over 4,000 people visited 39 buildings in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Doors Open Pittsburgh encourages curiosity as the public is invited to explore and experience a collection of iconic buildings and newly designed spaces first-hand.

Attendees simply create their own itinerary from the 2017 building list posted on the DOP website, buy tickets and show up! Reservations are not required; just show your ticket for entry at each building.

Once at a building, attendees will be greeted, asked to present their ticket and be provided a semi-guided or fully-guided tour experience or just the opportunity to explore.

The collection will include some of our city’s great landmarks, including office buildings, private clubs, houses of worship, government offices, theaters, hotels, artist spaces and residential buildings that contribute to our City’s heritage and rich architectural landscape.

Doors Open Pittsburgh 2017 will open approximately 69 buildings. For a complete building list, event tickets, and more, visit www.DoorsOpenPgh.org.
Advance reservations are required; limit of 12 individuals per tour.
For reservations, contact Oakmont Country Club: 412-828-8000.

The guided walking tour is free. Donations are welcome with the proceeds going to the Oakmont Country Club (OCC) Archives Committee to further enhance the tour experience.

Few golf courses in the world have the fabled history of Oakmont Country Club, a National Historic Landmark and host of nineteen major championships to date. Now, you can tour the historic clubhouse and golf course on certain Monday mornings, April through December.

Participants will be guided through the handsomely preserved 113-year-old clubhouse by one of the club’s golf historians. Learn about the founding of the club in 1903 and the family that made it all possible. A stroll down History Hall illustrates the history of the U.S. Open at Oakmont, with historic photographs, memorabilia, and championship artifacts. Gaze upon our collection of USGA trophies and see the original men’s locker room.

Weather permitting, guests will tour the historic “inland links” golf course and see the extraordinary vistas, narrow fairways, treacherous sand bunkers and iconic “Church Pew” bunker. Guests will also have the opportunity to test their putting skills on Oakmont’s world-renowned putting surfaces.

The tour ends at the Oakmont Professional Shop where guests may browse through a wonderful selection of apparel, equipment and memorabilia only available at Oakmont Country Club.

Additional details:
• Please arrive at Oakmont Country Club by 8:45 a.m. (light refreshments provided)
• Casual attire (no jeans or denim) and comfortable walking shoes with flat soles. Coat or jacket depending on weather forecast. Umbrellas will be provided.
• Disabled access is available.
• Photography is permitted.

For further information about the tour, contact the OCC Archives: 412-828-8000, ext. 257 or archives@gmail.com

Tours are sponsored by the Fownes Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of nationally recognized, historically significant golf sites. Oakmont Country Club is located at 1233 Hulton Road, Oakmont, PA, 15139.
Summer fades away in Western Pennsylvania, our Steelers and Penguins open their new seasons, and the store decorations are beginning to turn Pumpkin-orange, with all the excitement of Halloween costumes and candy soon to be upon us! In so many ways, “a new year,” and with that a word of friendship and blessing to all in the neighborhood.

Sunday, September 10, was “Round Up Sunday” at St. Andrew’s—a great fall gathering of our congregational family and friends as the quieter summer schedule came to an end and our regular service schedule resumed with Church School and Adult Sunday morning programs. Please call the Church Office at 412-661-1245 or check our website for details. 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.

Star Wars fans take note: Friday evening, October 6, will be the next “First Friday” Family Movie Night, and on the screen that evening will be the 2016 hit, “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story.” All are welcome. The evening begins at 6 p.m. downstairs in Barley Hall — and please feel free to bring snacks to enjoy and share!

Our regular service schedule also includes two services of Choral Evensong - a beautiful and meaningful offering in the rich tradition of historic Anglican worship. On the “First Thursday” of each month at 8 p.m. the Parish Choir sings Evensong, and the service is followed by a featured Musical Recital and festive dessert reception. On the Third Sunday of each Month at 4:30 p.m. as well we offer a service of Choral Evensong and Sermon, sung by St. Andrew’s Schola Cantorum. 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 5, when our recitalists will be David Anderson and Steven Groba, trumpet players with the McKeesport Symphony and Seton Hill University. A little later in October, we will note on the calendar the 4:30 p.m. service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 15. We will observe the Feast of St. Luke, Physician and Evangelist at that service, and our Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Leslie Reimer, Associate Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in East Liberty, Spiritual Director of Calvary Camp, and former Chaplain of the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Continuing a great tradition both in the parish and the wider neighborhood, Friday October 13th (8 p.m.) and Saturday October 14th (9:30 a.m.), will feature the 20th Annual St. Andrew’s Lecture Weekend. This year we welcome the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Woo, Assistant Professor of Church History down the street at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The focus of Dr. Woo’s lecture will be the significance and relevance of this year’s 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation - a subject that is of interest both historically and, in the context of shifting patterns of social and political life, in the framework of our present day. On Saturday morning, Dr. Woo will continue the conversation with a panel discussion and small group conversation including participants representing the Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions. The lecture and Saturday program are both free and open to the public.

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. Feel free to call us at 412 661-1245, “like” us on Facebook and check us out on the web at www.standrewspgh.org.
KITCHEN NOW OPEN!

Full Pint Tap Room

5308 Butler St. Pittsburgh, PA
Monday-Thursday 4-11pm, Friday 4-12pm,
Saturday 12am-12pm
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membership@highlandparkpa.com
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Super Playground – Monica Watt (412) 980-4208
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Welcoming – Todd Shirley
Zoning – Jake Pawlak

SHORT FILM ABOUT HIGHLAND PARK
View it here.

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