February 2018
Highland Park
Community Council Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. A Letter from the President
2. January Meeting Minutes
3. Cracked! The Sycamore saga
4. Destination Highland Park: Priority One! Fitness
5. Congratulations to Girl Scout Troop 52470!
6. Soup N’At at Union Project
7. Favorite ListServ Post of the Month
8. PWSA Update
9. Pittsburgh’s Student Police Academy
10. Around St. Andrew’s
Hello Neighbors!

Happy 2018! I hope that your holidays were relaxing and enjoyable, and that your new year is off to a great start.

Though the calendar reads 2018 as of January 1st, if you visited our website (hpccpgh.org) on that day, you’d be forgiven if you thought you were in 2008, as we’d fallen a bit behind on updating some of its content and features. I’m excited to share that that has changed as of mid-January, when we launched a brand new website with updated content and improved navigation. The new site is mobile-friendly, which will make it much easier for you to access from your smartphone or tablet, and has streamlined menus to make it easier to find useful information about the HPCC, our community, the park, city services, and a lot more.

As with the previous website, the homepage will display important announcements, including the agendas for upcoming community meetings, updates on important issues and projects, and new issues of the newsletter. You can also subscribe to receive these updates via email by entering your email address at the bottom of the page.

Under the “about” menu, you can find information about the mission and initiatives of the HPCC, the history of the neighborhood, links to important information from the city on refuse collection, building permits, park shelter rentals, and public safety. Under “attractions”, you’ll find information on community assets like the Highland Park Pool, the Super Playground, and the Zoo, as well as contact information for local businesses and restaurants and information on activities for children. There’s also information on how to contact the HPCC, as well as to join or renew your membership.

The site is also available in over 100 languages, which you can select via the “translate site” menu at the bottom of every page. Please note that this process is automated, which could result in some translation errors; we’ve attempted to minimize this where possible.
We hope that the new website will be a valuable asset to our members and the whole community. We also plan to continue to add new features and information over time, including a new membership page in the near future. If you have any suggestions for information that you think would be helpful or ways to make the website more user-friendly, please send me an email at jacob.pawlak@gmail.com.

Best,

Jake Pawlak
HPCC President
January 18, 2018
St. Andrew’s Church

Meeting Called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Jake Pawlak

Police Zone 5 Update - Sgt. Joe Lewis
Crime has been low in Highland Park after an uptick in car break-ins just before the holidays. It is recommended that residents keep their car doors locked and watch, stay with, or keep an eye on their cars while warming them up. Most car thefts and car break-ins are crimes of opportunity.

Councilwoman Gross’s Office - Councilwoman Deb Gross and Bethani Cameron, Chief of Staff
Bethani Cameron was introduced as Councilwoman Gross’s new Chief of Staff.

Councilwoman Gross provided a wrap-up on end-of-year activities by the Council, which included securing the funding for the affordable housing trust fund. She indicated that moving forward, discussions on what the policy should be on tax abatement, tax credits and other incentives for development in the City would be a priority. The policy set in 2007, when no one was building in the City, is no longer relevant given the development boom, particularly in the Strip District.

Getting the DEP, Allegheny County Health Department, the EPA, the PUC, and PWSA to work productively together will be a continuing priority for Councilwoman Gross.

Councilwoman Gross has been hearing concerns from neighbors near or on St. Clair Street regarding the Port Authority’s plans for the comfort station and bus route for BRT. Some residents are circulating petitions against the plans.
Mayor’s Office - Corey Buckner, City of Pittsburgh

The responsibility for administering the Snow Angels program is now with the Mayor’s office. All Highland Park requests have been met with an assigned volunteer. 170 volunteers have signed up this year, more than double the previous year. There is still need in other nearby neighborhoods for volunteers. To sign up to be a “snow angel” or to request an angel, visit www.pittsburghpa.gov/snowangels. Those in need of an angel may also call 311, and an application will be mailed. Call Corey Buckner at 412-255-4773 with questions about the program, which teams volunteer snow shovelers with those who are unable to shovel their sidewalks.

Home Tour Committee Update - Monica Watt, Co-Chair

The House Tour is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2018 (Mothers’ Day Weekend). The committee is seeking homes for the tour, as well as volunteers.

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy - Erin Copeland

Trail Pittsburgh - Sara Thompson and John Read, Trail Stewards for Highland Park

The Pittsburgh Department of Public Works and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy are responsible for maintaining Highland Park. Through the use of trail stewards, woodland trails are designed, maintained and re-routed in Highland Park and public parks throughout the city, county, and state. The trail stewards are volunteers for the all-volunteer organization Trail Pittsburgh.

Since the fall, stewards have observed illegal trail building in Highland Park in the form of BMX-bike trails that are dangerous and unsustainable. Issues such as erosion, the destruction of native plants, repeated crisscrossing of legal paths, temporary nature of paths, added jump structures, liability, and safety were discussed in detail.

These activities are illegal and will be enforced by the park rangers. The legal trails are designed to be sustainable and to accommodate multi-uses—bikers, walkers, joggers, and dog walkers. Trail steward volunteers have spent years building and maintaining these trails.

A plan is currently under discussion to close the dangerous trails by the use of signage and deconstruction of the trails. A work day will be set in the coming months to remove the trails. Highland Park residents are encouraged to join in the effort and will be notified through HPCC.

For information about Trail Pittsburgh, visit www.trailpittsburgh.org.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2018 at St. Andrews at 7:00 PM. Guest speaker will be Robert Weimer, Executive Director PWSA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
During the early January deep freeze, many of us were inside keeping vigil on frozen pipes — praying that they wouldn’t crack. On January 7th, when it was finally warm enough to go outside without fear of immediate frostbite, neighbors on one block of Hampton Street were greeted with an alarming sight.

All of the massive sycamore trees lining both sides of the street had split open overnight. The cracks were enormous. One measured twenty feet tall and eight inches deep! Some of the cracks were wide enough to put your hands in.

The towering trees looked very unstable, and neighbors jockeyed for parking spaces in between the potential fall zone for the seven trees. All homes were in the line of fire for multiple trees apiece due to the significant height of the trees. The cracks were all facing the street. The scene looked very surreal and symmetric.

It was feared that most of the trees would have to be removed, rendering the block a barren wasteland. One neighbor of 30 years said he had never seen anything like it.

It turns out that sycamore trees commonly experience “frost cracks” during bitterly cold weather. Frost cracks occur when weather causes uneven heating and cooling of tree bark, the layer of live cells just beneath the bark, and interior wood. During a sunny, cold winter day, the wood of a tree’s trunk can become twenty or more degrees warmer than the surrounding air. However, when the sun’s rays are removed, the wood cools rapidly, causing it to contract and split or crack vertically.

The good news is that as the weather warms during the coming months, the cracks will gradually close. In fact, during the middle of the summer it may be almost invisible except for a raised ridge, or “rib” of callus tissue that will form over the edges of the wound.

Just two weeks later, after some balmy warm snaps, most of the cracks have closed on Hampton Street’s sycamores. Neighbors have returned their cars to the unofficial assigned parking slots, and they are dreaming of raking the leaves next year.
The personal fitness studio was opened in October by owner David Boynton, who chose Highland Park due to the sense of community he observed here and the reputation of residents working together for greater good.

Boynton’s background includes decades of personal training and martial arts, plus 15 years of working with physical therapists to build pre/post rehabilitation programs for clients. He is accredited with the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

“Whether you are out-of-shape, older, or recovering from an illness or injury, we can work with and around your limitations,” offers Boynton. He believes in nurturing one’s health and making it the personal top priority (Priority One!).

“IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS.”

With the start of a new year, many vow to improve their health and fitness or simply work to shed the holiday gain. Highland Park now boasts a new option for residents to meet these goals with the addition of Priority One! Personal Training and Wellness on Bryant Street.
Priority One! provides individualized exercise programs for everyone from the fitness beginner, health-minded older population, and pre/post rehab to the competitive athlete and the weekend warrior. The studio has been equipped with the latest machines and tools and is staffed by both Boynton and contracted trainer Stephen Trush.

The business is not membership-based, but instead charges clients for the services used. In addition to private one-on-one training, semi-private (2-3 people) sessions are also available, allowing clients to share and save with family and friends. Small group training (4-8 people) classes have recently been added.

Areas of specialization include strength training, sports performance, speed and agility, postural and functional awareness, muscular imbalance and correctional exercise, weight management and weight loss, pre/post rehabilitation, and functional strength and balance training for older adults.

Boynton encourages Highland Park neighbors to stop by and say "hello". His goal is to create a friendly, welcoming environment where he can empower, educate, and assist people in nurturing their health.
CONGRATULATIONS TO
GIRL SCOUT
TROOP 52470!

Congratulations to Troop 52470 who collected just shy of 100 trees for their fundraiser this year! We also want to give a shout out to Troop 55286, who collected about 60 trees from Point Breeze and Friendship. It looks more like fun-raising than fundraising. Well done girls!

As promised, Troop 52470 plans to donate 10% of their profits to recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and Troop 55286 donated 10% of their profits to 412 Food Rescue.

SOUP N’AT AT UNION PROJECT

Sunday, February 25 at 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
$10 cash donation at the door
(Guests receive soup & drinks!)

Soup N’at is a bi-annual event that raises funds for artists to realize their dream projects. Approximately five finalists will be chosen to present their proposals to an audience of soup loving attendees. At the end of the night, each attendee will cast a vote for their favorite project. The winning artist will walk away with all of the night’s proceeds to bring their dream to life.

Your $10 cash donation at the door gives you these awesome things:

- Delicious soup from a local restaurant
- A voting ballot
- Entertainment by a local performer
- Beer
- The unmistakable satisfaction that comes with supporting our local artists

Soup N’at is organized by Union Project and supported by a group of dedicated volunteers.

FAVORITE LISTSERV POST OF THE MONTH
FREE - 9 Peet’s Coffee Pods for Keurig
PWSA UPDATE

PWSA Continues to work to bring Highland 1 back online.

To comply with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations and design standards, a UV disinfection system is proposed for the Highland Park Membrane Filtration Plant (MFP) to provide a minimum of 1-log inactivation for Giardia cysts. To provide a more robust multi-barrier approach, PWSA will treat the membrane filtration plant discharge to achieve 3-log Giardia and 2-log Cryptosporidium inactivation through UV disinfection. UV disinfection for 4-log virus inactivation is not cost-effective and will continue to be achieved with the use of free chlorine.

The MFP facility rating following this project will be a maximum of 20.8 MGD due to the removal of two membrane racks to accommodate the installation of the UV system. The current capacity of the plant is 26 MGD.

The MFP UV disinfection system will be comprised of two 24-inch diameter reactors, each rated to treat a maximum flow of 21 MGD. The reactors will be installed in two parallel runs of stainless steel pipe. Each run will be fitted with isolation valves, a flow meter and a UV reactor, providing complete redundancy should one reactor be off-line for service.

Installation is planned for later this year.

PITTSBURGH’S STUDENT POLICE ACADEMY

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police is offering an opportunity for students, free of charge, to become closely acquainted with the roles and responsibilities of the Police Bureau. The Pittsburgh Student Police Academy (SPA) will bring the Pittsburgh Police and the school’s youth together in a setting that offers a sample of police training to each student.

The Spring 2018 session of the SPA will begin on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at The Pittsburgh Community Day School, 6424 Forward Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. The Program will be held each Wednesday evening, from 6:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m. for 10 weeks.

Class size is limited to 25 participants. Interested students must complete an application/permission slip and send their application to John Tokarski, City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Safety, Suite 400, City-County Bldg., 414 Grant St., Pittsburgh, PA 15219 by Friday, March 9, 2018.

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU WILL GET TO EXPERIENCE!

- Patrol Tactics
- Fire Arm Safety
- Crime Scenes
- Emergency Response
- SWAT
- K-9 Unit
- Use of Force
- Search and Seizure
Here we are, rolling into February already! The Bucs will be playing ball in Bradenton before we know it, and sooner or later this snowy winter will loosen her gentle grip on us here in Highland Park, with spring right around the corner, and as we move on in the Church Calendar into the rich season of Lent and on to Eastertide.

February 13th is Shrove Tuesday this year, with all in the parish and neighborhood invited to join in the fun of the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Mardi Gras Party. Dinner is served from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., with all the traditional fun of the Pancake Toss and the Crowning of the King and Queen of Mardi Gras! All are welcome (dinner by donation).

We’re looking forward to a great season of music and worship, of course. Services of Choral Evensong may be of special interest to folks in the neighborhood. On Sunday, February 18, at 4:30 p.m. Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent will be sung by the Schola Cantorum.

Our Guest Preacher will be the Rev. J. Michael Thompson, a priest and musician who sings with the Schola. On Thursday evening, March 1, at 8 p.m., the Parish Choir will sing the Evening Office to observe the day on our Episcopal Church Calendar set aside to remember the life and work of the 17th century Anglican priest and poet George Herbert, and then David Anderson and Steven Groba, who play trumpet in the McKeesport Symphony Orchestra, will present a recital following.

Families in the neighborhood will want to have the March Family Movie Night on the calendar, Friday evening, March 2, at 6 p.m., as all are invited to join for pizza and popcorn and a showing of the 1984 epic fantasy film, “The Neverending Story.” (All ages welcome, but children are to be accompanied by a parent or other adult guardian.)

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. Services are at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. (with Choir) each Sunday. Additionally, if there is a pastoral need that we can help our neighbors 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 should need to find some space for a meeting or a family gathering, or just 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, standrewspgh.org, and “Like” us on Facebook (search for “St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Highland Park”).

AROUND ST. ANDREW’S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

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
KITCHEN NOW OPEN!

5308 BUTLER ST. PITTSBURGH, PA
MONDAY-THURSDAY 4-11PM, FRIDAY 4-12PM,
SATURDAY 12AM-12PM
SHORT FILM ABOUT HIGHLAND PARK

View it here.

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

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We Get Homes Sold!
2 Heads are Better than 1
Contact Us…We Are Available!!