

June 2021

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

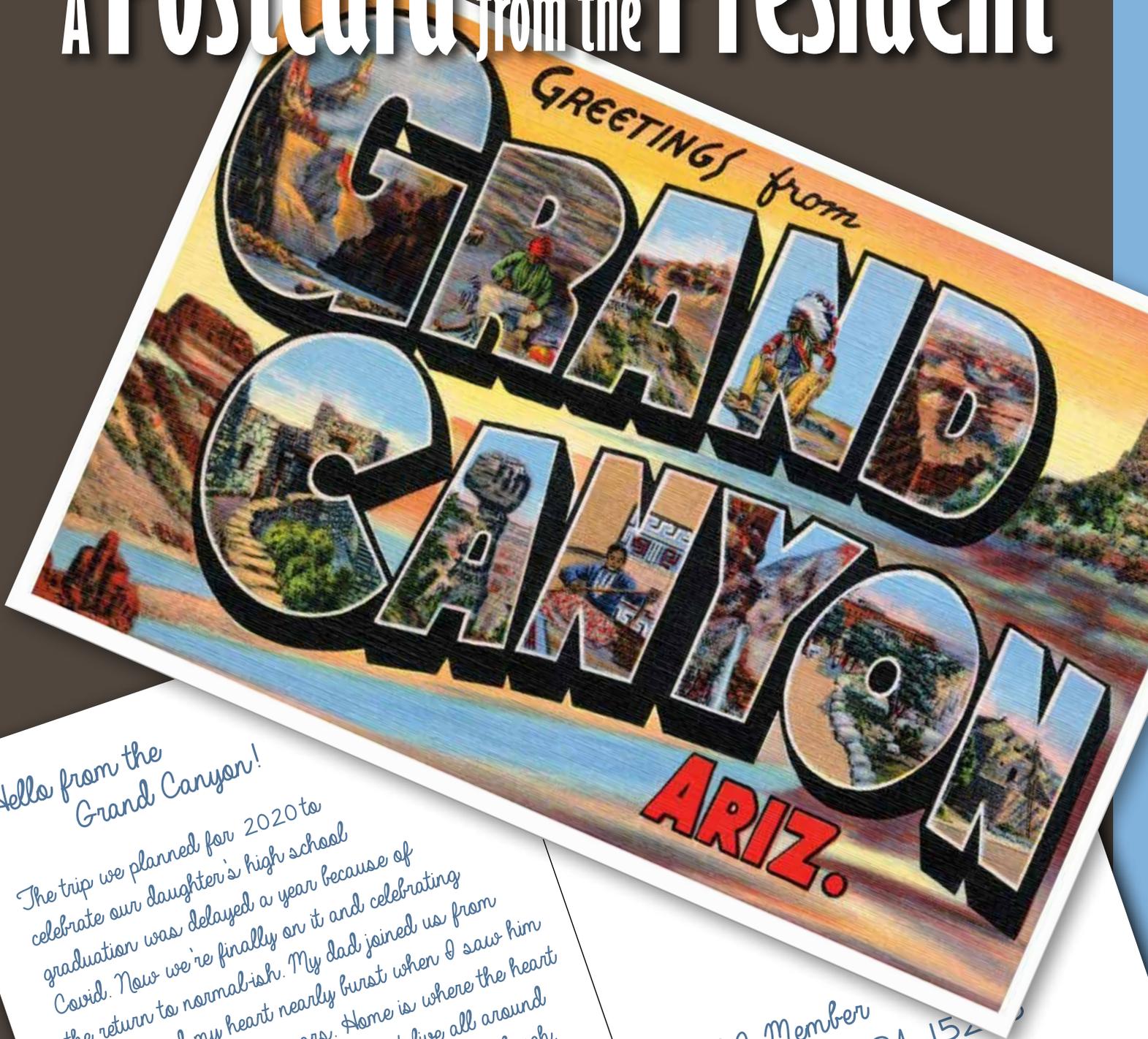
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*Enjoying the Park
this Summer.*



A Postcard from the President



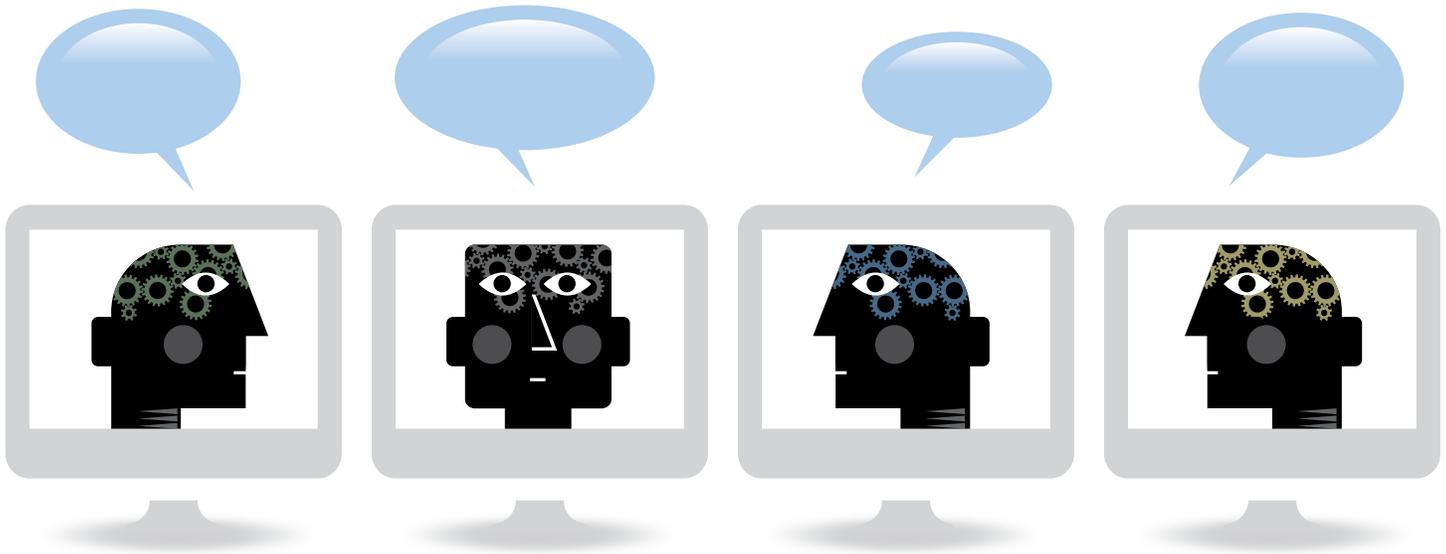
*Hello from the
Grand Canyon!*

The trip we planned for 2020 to celebrate our daughter's high school graduation was delayed a year because of Covid. Now we're finally on it and celebrating the return to normal-ish. My dad joined us from Florida and my heart nearly burst when I saw him again after almost 2 years. Home is where the heart is, and while little bits of my heart live all around the country, the biggest piece remains in Pittsburgh. Vacations are special, but so is returning home to a place as wonderful as Highland Park.

See you in July,

*Stephanie Walsh
APCC President*

*APCC Member
Highland Park, PA 15202*



HPCC Meeting Minutes

HPCC Community Zoom Meeting

In attendance: 32 Participants

Meeting called to order by Stephanie Walsh at 7:02 p.m.

HPCC - Public Safety Updates- Stephanie Walsh

- Recent hate crimes / vandalism in neighborhood
 - HPCC board released a statement that's on our website
 - We condemn these actions. As an organization we are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and affirming environment for everyone in the community.
 - We reached out to all of the two affected parties and Zone 5
 - We strongly encourage anyone who experiences or witnesses this type of behavior to contact the police so that they can investigate and track such incidents; you can reach out to our board if you would like us to help facilitate this contact.
- Thefts from Bryant Street - picnic table & planters at market
 - In total - 6 planters were stolen - 4 from the Market and 2 from the new Barbershop.

Zone 5 - Officer Jeffery Crawford

- In the past 30 days there were:
 - 4 thefts from vehicles
 - Planters stolen from the porch of a N. Negley Avenue home; a warrant has been issued for a subject of interest in the theft.
 - Planters stolen from the Bryant Street Market lot (see above); a warrant has been issued in this theft.
 - There will be a meeting next week regarding noise issues from the police shooting range; results of the City's Noise Study will be presented/discussed.
 - Police patrols have been increased in the Highland Park/East Liberty neighborhoods; abandoned vehicles are being identified and removed from the neighborhoods.
 - A participant identified an ongoing spate of vehicular accidents at the corner of Highland Avenue and Jackson Street. Speeding is prevalent in that intersection. Officer Crawford will follow up.
 - Another resident identified Stanton Avenue between N. Highland and N. Negley Avenues as another safety hazard due to speeding, running the stop sign at North Euclid, all resulting in accidents. Officer Crawford will follow up.

HPCC - Other Updates - Stephanie Walsh

- Please visit the new Events page on the HPCC website
- Parklet clean-up Saturday, May 22

- Sidewalk Chalk-a-Palooza - Locations throughout the neighborhood for chalk pick up will be posted prior to the event.
- Porch Concerts will return the first Sunday in June.
- Garden Tour - July 11.
- Look for our May newsletter in mail - It will include sign-up sheet for Yard Sale on Sept. 19
- Traffic circle plants coming for North Euclid

Super Playground Presentation - Andrea Ketzel, Senior Landscape Architect, City Department of Public Works and Christopher Corbett, Office of City Planning.

- There were over 200 responders to the Community surveys regarding the new playground.
- The HPCC Super Playground committee is working with the Pittsburgh Glass Center to provide mosaics for the Playground which will require City Art Committee approval.
- Fencing will be erected along the Playground's street side of Reservoir Drive.
- Construction should be underway by late August - September after the bidding process in June - July.
- Anticipated reopening is late winter/early Spring.
- A big shout out to the HPCC Super Playground Committee members (Sabrina Culyba, Mac Lynch, Betsy Rogerson, and Monica Watt) and the staff at the City (particularly Andrea Ketzel in Public Works) and Merritt Chase for all of the work done/being done on this great project! They've been very good at soliciting and responding to community feedback.

Discussion of Parklet:

Stephanie Walsh - Overview

- There had been an abandoned home on this property.
- The Highland Park CDC purchased it, demolished the building, and cleared the lot
- The lot was not being used. In response to COVID-19, trying to find ways to support our businesses, the HPCC approached the HPCDC and asked them about using the space as a parklet.
- The vision is not just a place for people to have take out, but also a community gathering spot.

- It seems like this type of space is something the community values and the HPCC is considering ways to maintain the space as a park long term as an enhancement to the business district and the neighborhood.
- It's unique - people don't get lunch at Bryant Street and walk up to Highland Park. It's also easily accessible greenspace for many neighbors who live further away from the park.
- The HPCDC has said it's willing to work with us toward that vision if it's something the community supports, but there is now a developer who has offered to purchase the site and build it out for mixed use commercial / apartments similar to the other new construction on the block
- We want to get feedback from you - what would you like to see happen with the space?

Councilwoman Deborah Gross

- The Councilwoman reviewed the importance of Community and green spaces, as well as shared her knowledge of how the process of a land bank works.

David Hance, President HPCDC

- Reviewed the history of the property and its acquisition.
- Stressed the importance/need for a clear vision for the property.
- There is an offer to purchase the site to put in a 6-person software firm with the owner living upstairs.

Other Feedback

- Tim VanFleet reported on behalf of MaryBeth VanFleet, HPCC liaison to business owners. She has spoken to most of the business owners and they pretty much unanimously support maintaining the space as a park.
- All of the comments (12+ in the chat and spoken) were in support of maintaining the space as a parklet.

Stephanie

- The community's support for the parklet was confirmed by the feedback we received. We'll continue to move forward investigating options for maintaining the space as a park.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Why You Should Check Out **EngagePGH**

EngagePGH is an online engagement portal open to the public where stakeholders can see City planning and policy projects, learn about their content and upcoming work, and provide input in interesting and innovative ways. The platform meets and exceeds ADA-accessibility guidelines (WCAG 2.0) and enables a more robust and transparent feedback loop for stakeholders. Users experience consistency across projects and can learn and engage on their own time, easily with access to any smart-enabled device. engage.pittsburghpa.gov

SOME CURRENT PROJECTS YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING:

Highland Park

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/highland-park-super-playground>

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/art-parks>

City of Pittsburgh

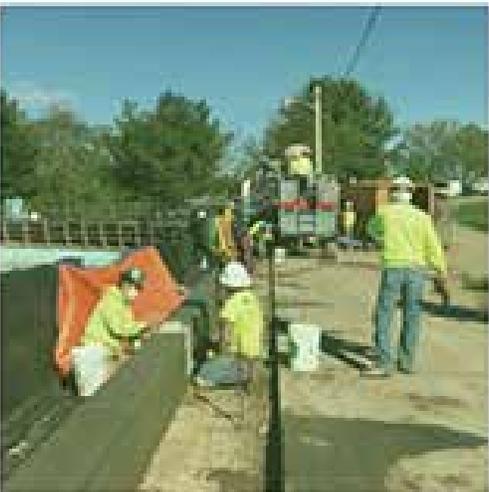
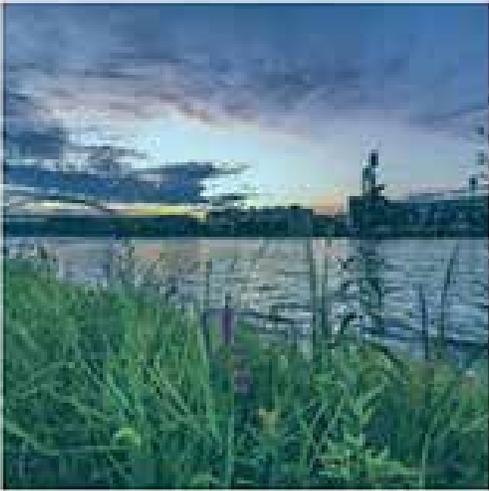
<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/2022budgets>

Future Planning

<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/forgingpgh>

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Publishes Its

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



Our new annual report provides an overview of our signature achievements from the past year.

Pittsburgh, PA — The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority is pleased to release our [*2020 Year in Review*](#).

2020 was a remarkable year. PWSA quickly adapted to the reality of the pandemic and continuously delivered on our commitments to ratepayers. The annual report highlights our investment and the actions we are taking to provide Pittsburgh families, its workers, and businesses with safe, high-quality water services. We encourage you to learn more about the following signature achievements that occurred last year:

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Here we discuss our prioritized program areas. From reducing lead levels, expanding our customer assistance programs, and implementing the largest capital program in PWSA's history, these achievements show that we are taking the necessary steps to protect water services for current and future generations of Pittsburgh.



A graph showcasing a steep decline in lead levels after we introduced orthophosphate into our water distribution system in 2019.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

This section covers our current financial standing, projections for coming years, and highlights our success in securing state and federal funding to support our infrastructure investment. Our current bond ratings and the completion of two bond transactions provide the credibility and the resources to implement our \$1.2 billion capital program over the next five years.

PERFORMANCE METRICS

From the quality and quantity of customer service calls to the miles of pipes, catch basins, and hydrants we replace, you will see the steps we are taking to improve performance and deliver on our commitments to all customers.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Here we highlight pertinent water, sewer, and stormwater project accomplishments. These illustrate the work we are doing in the community to replace water mains, improve our infrastructure, rehabilitate sewer pipes, and protect neighborhoods from increasing amounts of rain.

"This report reflects our efforts to increase transparency by shedding more light on items such as our responsible and effective investment of ratepayer dollars," said Chief Executive Officer, Will Pickering. "In 2020, PWSA demonstrated its commitment to deliver life essential services and advance critical construction projects during very challenging circumstances."

Web and PDF versions of the report can be found on the [Performance page](#) of our website.

ABOUT PWSA

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) is the largest combined water, sewer and stormwater authority in Pennsylvania, serving 300,000 consumers throughout the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.



Union Project

Virtual Clay & Wine Workshop

July 24

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Spend Saturday night with a virtual clay happy hour! Grab a buddy or a date for two hours of clay and wine. Join our instructor on a video call and learn a variety of hand-building techniques.

Clay, tools, and firing costs for one item are included in the fee. Each participant will be able to pick up a kit prior to the workshop and then bring their finished art back to be fired. This workshop is BYOB and for adults aged 21 and over.

Union Project is committed to being accessible to all. Please let us know what accommodations we can make to ensure your experience is positive, contact Michelle Clesse at 412-363-4550 or michelle@unionproject.org if you have specific accommodations or needs.





Ask the Doctor

*Nothing like the summertime
to get you excited to... EAT!*

We are so fortunate to be surrounded by farmers markets, right near Highland Park. Summertime especially lends itself to more sources of fresh fruits and vegetables. One of my favorite topics to talk about with patients is nutrition and our gut health. And what does the gut love? Fiber!

When we start to eat more fiber, this relies on our gut microbiome to go through their process of fermenting. Fiber only comes from plant foods, unlike nutrients like protein or fat-fiber waits to get all the way through the digestive tract down the colon before it starts being digested.

The gut microbiome, made up of trillions of microorganisms including bacteria, viruses, and archaea, all work to digest the fiber. Gut bacteria take the fiber, ferment it, and make short chain fatty acids (SCFAs), which are crucial for the health of the entire body. SCFAs are the energy source for the colonocytes, aka the colon cells. They are implicated in anti-inflammatory processes in the body, cancer prevention, and immune system function.

So, you can imagine, when our gut microbiome is not supplied with a large variety of fiber (aka food for the bacteria), these bacteria can't do their jobs, the SCFAs aren't made, and the body suffers. The average American gets less than 20-30 grams of fiber per day. We should be eating about 60-70 grams. That's a huge difference.

You've probably heard of pre-biotics and pro-biotics. Pre-biotics feed the microbiome (aka fiber). Pro-biotics are members of the microbiome. And post-biotics are made by the pro-biotics digesting and fermenting the pre-biotics. What's the best way to get all this working? Eat. More. Plants. At least 30 different types each week, to be exact. Plant diversity is crucial. Eat more fruits, vegetables, legumes, and whole grains. Cut down on your dairy, processed foods, and meat intake. Incorporate some fun fermented foods like kimchi, kombucha, and sauerkraut. The best part is, all of these things can be found affordably at our local farmers markets, so get out and start turning your plates into rainbows!

Ask the Doctor is a new monthly column in the HPCC newsletter. Questions are encouraged and should be emailed to gentilefamilydpc@gmail.com. Answers will be included in the issues that follow.



PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF FIRE RECRUITMENT EFFORT

By Monica Watt, Editor

I was listening to Darryl E. Jones, Fire Chief for the City of Pittsburgh, speak last night and was very surprised to hear that only 1% of fire fighters are female and only 7% are minority. He conveyed his desire to improve those numbers and I offered to help by making the neighborhood aware and posting their latest entry level job posting. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to him directly at 412-255-2860.

FIRE FIGHTER RECRUIT JOB POSTING

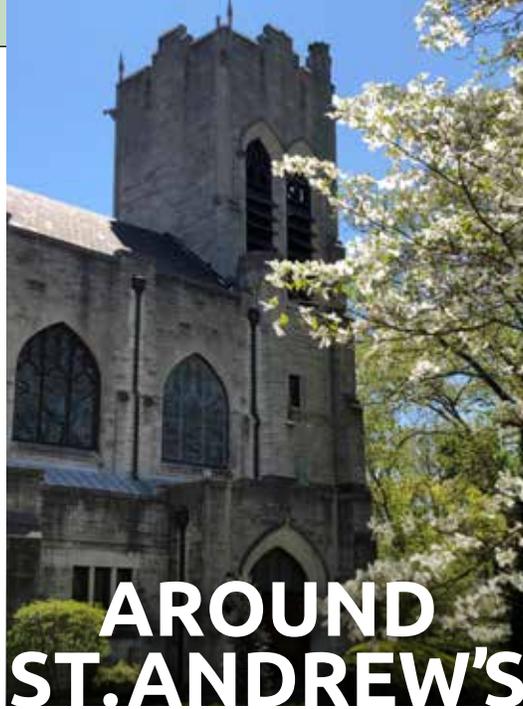
- Pittsburgh, PA
- CS Competitive, Full Time
- Category: Community Services / Public Safety / Fire & EMS / Safety / Emergency Management
- Department: Public Safety, Bureau of Fire
- Salary: \$176.77 per day while in Training Academy. \$45,959.88 per year, Firefighter First Year
- Provides services such as fire protection, prevention, public education, rescue and suppression within the City to reduce injury and loss of life or property due to man-made or natural causes.

www.governmentjobs.com/careers/Pittsburgh/jobs/3076594/firefighter-recruit



What is that beautiful sound coming from St. Andrew's on Sunday mornings? Why that is our choir back to singing each week. We have about a dozen fully vaccinated Choir members singing during our service.

And we are now open for up to fifty worshippers in our Sanctuary every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. We also have overflow for up to fifteen people in Brooks Hall. Should we get more than sixty-five worshippers each week we are prepared to offer a second service. You no longer need to register in advance for our services. If you come, we do ask that you please use the door on Hampton Street, arrive no earlier than ten minutes prior to the start of service, leave your name and contact information at the back of the Church, sit in the designated pews and please wear a mask. We continue to ask all vaccinated and unvaccinated people to mask up when coming into our building. Thank you for your cooperation. But as we all know things can change rapidly during the pandemic so please check our outgoing phone message, our Facebook page or our website, www.standrewspgh.org for the very latest information. As has become our custom all of



AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

By Becky Marinov

our services continue to be live streamed on our Facebook page and archived on our YouTube channel.

Our reopening committee continues to work on plans to reopen our building for outside groups to use. We have begun to use our lawn for outside groups. Earlier this month the Diamante Orchestra performed a free live concert featuring Latin American and Jazz favorites. People brought their lawn chairs or blankets and enjoyed treats from LaScola's.

Thanks again to all of our neighbors here in Highland Park - we were able to send two carloads full of non-food products over to the families of the Neighborhood Academy in nearby Stanton Heights. Highland Park continues to amaze us with your generosity. We strive to be a good neighbor. Please don't hesitate to reach out should you need anything. We are here for you. May God Bless you and your family during this fun time of the year.

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5801 Hampton Street, Highland Park, Pittsburgh
412-661-1245 • www.standrewspgh.org
The Rev. Chris Cole, Rector





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Welcoming Committee: Sabrina Culyba

Zoning Committee: Jake Pawlak

Bryant Street Festival: Bob Staresinic

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Reservoir of Jazz: Tania Grubbs

Yard Sale: Jake Pawlak