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Hello Neighbors and Hello Summer!

With vaccination rates up, infection rates down, and more places open for businesses, there is much to celebrate this summer. All of our neighborhood businesses survived; Highland Park reported only 33 cases of Covid-19; and according to data posted on the County Health Department website at this writing, the County is on track to have its first week with zero Covid-19 deaths since April 12, 2020. I am feeling a bit better about life - although I still can’t help being worried about other parts of the country and world. While part of me continues to remain focused on the challenges we face, I’m glad to have things in the community to look forward to this summer:

- **Reservoir of Jazz.** This popular jazz concert returns this August with great performers, including two Porch Concert favorites: Funky Fly Project (Aug 1) and Lilly Abreu, Brazilian Jazz Quartet (Aug 8). Also mark your calendars for the Lynn Speakman Quintet (Aug 15), the David Throckmorton Quartet (Aug 22), and Roger Humphries (Aug 29). All concerts are from 5 - 7 p.m. at the park entry garden.

- **Highland Park Yard Sale.** Find or sell treasures at the most popular yard sale in the city - back this year on September 19. This annual event attracts hundreds of visitors to Highland Park and in 2019 (the last year it was held) over 120 neighbors registered their yard sales. Register ahead to be listed in the yard sale guide & receive a Yard Sale sign by visiting HPCCpgh.org/Events.

“The summer night is like a perfection of thought.”

- Wallace Stevens

I hope to see you down at the parklet or strolling the neighborhood, savoring these long, lovely summer nights.

**Stephanie Walsh**
Highland Park Community Council President
the URA that will allow the HPCC to enter a long-term lease to maintain the parklet as a park. The property will no longer be for sale and restrictions will be placed on it to prevent development in the near term. Thank you to the HPCDC and the URA for working with us to make this possible. Later this summer/fall, the HPCC will be seeking community input on possible improvements to the site.

N. Euclid Neighborway
The city is behind on Public Works projects. There are things DOMI has scheduled but are yet to be completed on the neighborway:

• There are a couple of roundabouts that still need to be installed.
• Plants have been ordered and need to be installed at all circles.

Traffic Study requested for Highland Ave. and Jackson Ave.
Neighbors complained about speeding and accidents at this intersection, so a request has been submitted to DOMI to conduct a traffic study there. DOMI has seen a huge increase in the number of such requests this spring so we are not sure when it will actually happen.

Reservoir Drive Safety Improvements
In January, a working group was formed to develop a pilot project to increase safety for park users along Reservoir Drive that incorporates public feedback from last summer’s temporary road closure while also allowing vehicle access at safe speeds. This group includes community residents, the Highland Park Community

HPCC Meeting Minutes
HPCC Community Zoom Meeting
Annual Business Meeting
June 17, 2021

In Attendance: 20 Participants
Called to order by: Howard Degenholtz
At: 7:02 p.m.

Zone 5 Update - Lieutenant Eric Kroll
• Lt. Kroll did not have the monthly statistics with him but will forward to the HPCC within the next few days.
• Overall, “Things have been rather quiet in Highland Park.”
• A question was raised by a participant regarding the recent theft of six planters from the HP business area. An update on status was requested. LT. Kroll will follow up with the HPCC.
• Reminders - lock and remove all items from parked vehicles; leave porch lights on at night; have 3” illuminated address numbers on homes.

HPCC UPDATES
Bryant Street Parklet
The HPCC is pleased to announce that it has reached an agreement with the HPCDC and
Council, Highland Park Community Development Corporation, City Councilwoman Deborah Gross, and representatives of several City departments. DOMI developed a design plan that emphasizes the recreational needs of park users while keeping the road open to vehicles; it included traffic calming elements such as new crosswalks, wider lanes for recreational users, and better signage and lane markings. Unfortunately, it appears that the pilot will not be implemented this summer because of lack of funding. *(7.13.21 Update: it appears that the pilot project will be moving ahead this fall).*

**Police Firing Range**

The HPCC Firing Group met with representatives of the city last month. The most recent sound study conducted by the city found that all the gunfire noise coming from the firing range is louder than acceptable standards in some parts of the neighborhood and park. Long term (8 or more years) the site will be closed and the city intends to build an indoor facility at the former VA hospital site as part of its new Public Safety Center there.

In the meantime, the city hired a range design firm that is investigating options to reduce the noise. There does not appear to be another range in the county that has capacity for the Pittsburgh Police officers to train, so closing it immediately and relocating the training is not an option at the moment. The HPCC believes that there are options that can reduce sound overall and is encouraging the city to look at many options, including sending officers outside of the county to train. The HPCC will not support any option that is expected to redirect the noise to other neighborhoods.

HPCC President Stephanie Walsh met with the Lieutenant who runs the firing range. He assured us that the range is only used to meet the safety and training requirements outlined in statute - there is no recreational use of the site and the site is only used by officers of the city’s police department. They are committed to only regularly scheduling training on the range Monday - Thursday with occasional Fridays, and no holidays. They committed to starting no earlier than 8 a.m. and ending as soon as possible in the evening. What sounds like automatic weapons is new officer side arm training; that training is almost complete for the calendar year - the last scheduled time is June 23rd at 5 p.m.

**DOD Training**

The Department of Defense has been conducting some exercises in the upcoming week which will involve some aircraft in the Highland Park area.

**RECENT HPCC EVENTS:**

**Bryant Street Parklet - Spring Cleaning: May 22**
- Volunteers cleaned and painted the picnic tables, pulled out the winter debris, removed old tree stumps, and planted flowers.
- A neighborhood Girl Scout troop is maintaining the four raised beds in the back half of the site.

**Sidewalk Chalk-a-Palooza & Summer Porch Concerts Launch: June 4 - 6**
- We celebrated the launch of the porch concert series with sidewalk art throughout the neighborhood!

**SUMMER HPCC EVENTS:**

**Summer Porch Concert Series:**
- Sundays 7 - 8 p.m., June & July
- Back by popular demand! Neighborhood musicians are sharing their talents with their neighbors on Sunday evenings from 7 - 8 p.m.

**Reservoir of Jazz:**
- Each Sunday in August, 5-7 p.m.
- The city only decided to hold summer park concerts earlier this month so details re: performers are still being confirmed.

*We would love feedback on what to do with the Summer Porch Concerts in August*
- We don’t want to compete with the Reservoir of Jazz on Sunday nights.
  - Participant response was elicited but nothing was decided. Two participants voiced an opinion that porch concerts should end in July and resume in September.
- Would people attend if we moved the concerts to Friday or Saturday night?
  - Two participants suggested that the porch concerts be moved to another night in August; one was a porch concert performer.
Highland Park Garden Tour: July 11
- This new event is being organized by the Highland Park Garden Club and is sponsored by the HPCC. More details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter and at hpgcpgh.org.
- Nancy Shultz from the Garden Club reported that 250 tickets have already been sold.
- There will be an upcoming article about the event in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; ticket sales are expected to increase when the article is published.
- Since two of the gardens featured are on dead end streets, fliers will be sent out that direct attendees in vehicles to parking spots.
- Volunteers are needed to assist on the day of the show.

Highland Park Yard Sale: Sept 19
- This neighborhood favorite will be returning on September 19. The sign-up sheet is elsewhere in this newsletter and is also available on-line.

Possible HPCC Events: Participant feedback was requested on:

In-person Community Meetings
- Outside while the weather is nice, maybe with a social theme (wine tasting? picnic?)
- All expressed that virtual meetings should not be totally dismissed, especially in colder months.
- All in attendance were in favor of an outdoor August meeting at the HPCC parklet weather permitting.
  - Bring your own chair.
  - Questions arose regarding a wine tasting at the parklet venue, specifically, is a liquor license required?

Fall Events
- Maybe pumpkin patch again?
  - Unanimously supported! Was a huge success!
- Would people be interested in neighborhood-wide scarecrow building? A popular event in some communities is that the neighborhood association sells scarecrow “kits” (stakes and burlap bags) and neighbors use them to create their own scarecrows - sometimes in themed scenes. The HPCC could post a map and even have a scarecrow contest.
  - Not much enthusiasm for this idea.

Light-up Night
- Kick off the December holiday season with a celebration of lights throughout the neighborhood.
  - Unanimous support! Another huge success.

Finance Committee Update (Mac & Howard)
- The HPCC ended FY 2020 with approximately $35,000 in its checking account, $75,000 in its investment account, and $39,000 in the Super Playground fund. The 2020 year was under budget due cancellation of several events. The proposed budget for FY 2021 was approved by the board at its May meeting. The total planned expenses are $29,950 and revenues are $22,310. The difference will be drawn down from the investment account. This includes the one-time cost of replacing the 2 of the 3 “Welcome to Highland Park” signs.

Membership Committee Update (Sabrina)
- HPCC currently has 211 active Household Memberships.
- Kate Balboni is now the “New Neighbor Welcome Committee” representative. Welcome to Kate!
- An email was sent out to members with lapsed memberships yesterday as a reminder.
  - There was a small glitch with the Neon software which occurred but has been corrected.
- The Committee is asking for ideas for possible membership perks, i.e. discounts for Yard Sale tables.

Nominating Committee / Vote (Judy & Howard)
- Officers (no proposed changes)
  - President: Stephanie Walsh
  - Vice President: Betsy Rogerson
  - Treasurer: Howard Degenholtz
  - Secretary: Judy Beck
- Board members stepping down
  - Thank you Mac Lynch who is finishing his 3-year tenure on the board but will continue to be involved as the Chair of the Finance Committee.
Thank you to two the other board members who had been in the two other seats but stepped down before their 3-year term was over.

- Betsy Rogerson - became HPCC Vice President summer 2020.
- Another person stepped down due to other commitments.

**Nominated for board seats**

- We have 3 individuals who all joined the board to fill interim positions in the last 18 months - we’re happy to have them starting full terms on the board.
  - Kathleen Paola
  - Becky Marinov
  - Justin Bhagat

**VOTE:**

- Moved by: Bob Staresinic
- 2nded: Jim Blakely
- Results:
  - Yeas - 20 (unanimous)
  - Nays - 0
  - Abstentions - 0
- All nominations APPROVED as presented.

**HPCC RECRUITMENT:**

**Newsletter Editor**

- The editor of the newsletter is responsible for soliciting materials to be published, setting and enforcing deadlines, making a final determination about what will be published in each issue, and overseeing the layout and design & proofing of each issue. For more information, please email editor@highlandparkpa.com.

**Website Manager**

- The website manager updates the website and posts and announcements provided by the HPCC board. There are usually 1-2 posts per week and bigger updates 1 - 2 times / year. For more information, please email HPCCPgh@gmail.com.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.
The HPCC annual multi-family Yard Sale is back and will kick off at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 19th!

This annual event attracts hundreds of visitors to Highland Park and is a great way to find a new home for your unused treasures. Well over 120 neighbors registered a yard sale at their home last in 2019 (the sale was not held in 2020 due to COVID) and we anticipate high participation once again this year.

Fill out the form provided below or register here to include your sale in the neighborhood-wide listing and support the HPCC. You can also visit our FAQ page for answers to common questions.

Please note: because we will not be holding the Bryant Street Festival this year, we are not able to offer the “flea market” style sale locations on Bryant Street. We hope that the Festival and Flea Market location will be back in 2022.

Yard Sale Participation Form

Name ___________________________ Street Address __________________________________________________________

Phone Number ____________________ Email Address ________________________________________________________

List Items For Sale ____________________________________________________________

Please be concise - no more than 200 characters. List best items first. There is no limitation on what can be sold, only what is listed in the map handout.

Please mail (or drop off) the form and a check made out to the HPCC for $15 to Jake Pawlak, 1014 Winterton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. For questions, please call (412) 478-7769 or email jacob.pawlak@gmail.com.
City of Pittsburgh
Summer Event Series
Kicks Off

On Monday, July 5, the City of Pittsburgh Office of Special Events launched its Summer 2021 schedule of events with the first of 75+ free concerts and movie presentations in a variety of park settings. Throughout July and August, City of Pittsburgh venues will host Dollar Bank Cinema in the Park, Reservoir of Jazz and Summer Soul Line Dancing.

For complete details, visit www.pittsburghpa.gov/events, follow @PghEventsOffice on Twitter, LIKE @PghEventsOffice on Facebook or call the Special Events hotline at 412-255-2493.

CINEMA IN THE PARK
Grab a lawn chair or blanket and head out for an unforgettable evening of cinema under the stars. The complete 2021 Dollar Bank Cinema in the Park schedule posted at www.pittsburghpa.gov/events/cinema

HIGHLAND PARK: Reservoir Drive
Mondays, July 26 & August 23, at dusk

August 1 Funky Fly Project
August 8 Lilly Abreu, Brazilian Jazz Quartet
August 15 Lynn Speakman Quintet
August 22 David Throckmorton Quartet
August 29 Roger Humphries

“SUMMER SOUL LINE DANCING”
Sundays, August 1 – 29, 2021, 7 – 9 p.m.
HIGHLAND PARK: Entry Garden by Fountain

Whether you’re an experienced dancer or just a novice on the dance floor, stay after Reservoir of Jazz concerts for the ever-popular SUMMER SOUL LINE DANCING. Instructor Roland Ford incorporates R&B music in free classes that begin with basic steps and finish with more advanced moves.

Please Note: Inclement weather may cause event cancellations. For cancellation updates, follow @PghEventsOffice on Twitter or LIKE @PghEventsOffice on Facebook.
As we get outdoors this summer, pulling weeds, planting veggies, and hiking around Highland Park, some of you may be feeling more sore than you did this past winter.

In particular, this time of year I see a lot more low back pain, aggravated by over-use, one-time injuries, or chronic conditions like arthritis that are exacerbated. Although there are many ways to treat low back pain, such as physical therapy, exercise, chiropractic manipulation, pain medications, and weight loss, it has a high risk of recurrence. Especially in the context of the current opioid crisis, it is imperative to offer alternative options for pain management.

One such option is the practice of yoga, which has been shown to be an effective option for management of chronic low back pain.

When one is new to yoga it can be intimidating to incorporate a yoga practice into a treatment plan for low back pain. Fortunately, we have so many yoga studios near our neighborhood that you shouldn’t have any trouble finding a local source to help you - there is even yoga right in the beautiful Highland Park! It can be helpful to contact local yoga studios and ask if their teachers are able to accommodate injuries by making adjustments to poses. Additionally, there are easy-to-navigate and free resources online like Yoga Journal or YouTube videos that can help guide a yoga practice focused on low back pain.

Don’t consider yourself someone who would benefit from yoga? A solid yoga practice can be helpful as an adjunct to most any established workout routine, helping to prevent injury by staying calm, mindful, and flexible.

What makes yoga attractive as a management option for low back pain is the minimal side effects and the potential for lasting benefits, but always consult with your doctor before incorporating a new form of exercise or stretching for low back injuries.

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.
The gardens have become secret again and our volunteers have all returned home, knowing that they contributed to an amazingly successful garden tour. Thanks to everyone who helped us! Sighs of joy filled Highland Park as visitors, happily carrying our maps, crossed off gardens as if on a magical scavenger hunt. They went in search of beauty and found it in a blue tiled pool with sparkling water, in a Koi pond with a sweet mermaid dangling her tail in the water and in a shaded path surrounded by a lovely arrangement of native plants.

All of the success is due to our garden owners and our volunteers: HPGC members, HPCC members, Highland Park residents and all of the family and friends who joined us on this glorious day! And a big thank you for the wonderful support that the HPCC initially gave us, which really helped us to get the supplies that we needed to succeed.

Wandering from garden to garden, I heard nothing but compliments about how well organized the event was and how lovely the gardens were. Visitors were grateful for the information shared by knowledgeable garden monitors. They pointed out how to get from one garden to another, warned people off the grass and chatted with them as they waited in line to view a garden.

Our booths were set up, decorated and well organized. We even had a lost and found and returned two phones to their rightful owners! A youth orchestra played classical music to entertain visitors for the first hour of the tour. When the time came, the booths came down and were gratefully returned to the HPCC who loaned them to us.

The First HPGC Garden Tour is a success!

By Diana Pelletier, Highland Park Garden Club President
Our tour manager and her committee met monthly and then weekly to plan every aspect of the tour. Each member of the committee was responsible for an aspect of the tour: publicity, finding sponsors, creating the maps, communicating with garden owners and city officials, organizing the after-party, editing our materials and managing volunteers.

Thanks again to every single volunteer and to the effort that you made to welcome visitors and to help the tour be a success! Anyone who is tempted to join our merry club, is welcome and we already have this wonderful experience as a connection. Please feel free to reach out to our membership chair, Susan Ryan at 1318east@gmail.com. Thank you again!

Our parking and traffic monitors worked non-stop in the blazing sun and in the pouring rain. They kept the traffic moving and managed an unruly mob of drivers in a challenging lot with flying colors. Our roving photographer moved from garden to garden photographing flowers and visitors.

Registration table volunteers sold wristbands efficiently, gave them out to pre-registered guests and directed people to begin at lesser-traveled gardens so that no garden was overwhelmed. They sold water and gladly gave it to thirsty volunteers. When the water supply ran low, a volunteer rushed out in search of more water to replenish the supply.

Our after-party coordinator and her team planned a lovely outdoor party that the weather did not cooperate with. Somehow they pulled everything together with aplomb and moved us into the pool house. Hungry volunteers and garden owners were satisfied with tasty treats and wine served by our bartenders.
In January, a working group formed to develop a pilot project to increase safety for park users along Reservoir Drive. Its goal was to develop a pilot project that would incorporate public feedback from the summer 2020 temporary road closure while allowing vehicle access at safe speeds. This group includes community residents, the Highland Park Community Council, Highland Park Community Development Corporation, City Councilwoman Deborah Gross, and representatives of several City departments.

As a result of this effort, the City’s Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) developed plans for a pilot project that emphasize the recreational needs of park users while keeping the road open to vehicles. The plan includes traffic calming elements such as new crosswalks at key intersections, better signage and lane markings, and a reduction of the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph. DOMI anticipates that installation of these elements will begin this fall.

As this is a pilot project, the materials are basic in design and temporary. Community engagement to obtain input on the long-term adoption of these changes and/or others - such as decorative planters, custom-painted bump-outs, and other public safety and aesthetic enhancements - is expected next spring. For more information, contact Highland Park resident Tina Calabro at tina.calabro@verizon.net.
Our full choir usually takes the summer off and will return in the fall as will the first Thursday Evensong services. We have started to plan for the return to regular programming in the fall. Look for upcoming announcements about some new programming and opportunities.

Happening this summer, our Outreach team will be collecting school supplies and packing backpacks for children at the Neighborhood Academy. Check our website or messages posted on the ListServ for more information about how you can help. This is an annual tradition here at St. Andrew’s.

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is pleased to announce the election of the Reverend Dr. Ketlan A. Solak at the next Bishop. She currently serves as the Rector of the Brandywine Collaborative Ministries in Wilmington, Delaware. A native of Haiti she will be consecrated and installed in November as the ninth Bishop of Pittsburgh.

Enjoy the beautiful weather this summer and the opportunities to reconnect with family and friends. We strive to be a good neighbor and are here for you. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can help you with. May the light of the Lord shine upon you.

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Reservoir of Jazz
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Yard Sale
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