

Feb 16, 2023 Community Meeting

29 participants in attendance.

Zone 5 - Commander Stephen Vinansky

- In the past 30 day period in Highland Park:
 - 1 major crime - shots fired into a structure in the 5100 block of Avondale: Under investigation by Zone 5.
 - 5 thefts from vehicles
 - 5700 block of Bunker Hill a stolen catalytic converter
 - Wesley a stolen catalytic converter
 - Jackson and Negley - 2 people apprehended by Zone 5 during the vehicle break-in.
 - Mellon vehicle ransacked.
 - Participant question regarding an incident on Bryant St.
 - Domestic issues are not reported out by police due to confidentiality issues
 - Participant question regarding the recent Westinghouse High School shootings.
 - Zone 5 officers responded very quickly; canine patrols are sweeping the property on a regular basis; investigation remains ongoing.
 - Participant question regarding theft of catalytic converters
 - Thefts have decreased due to several arrests.
 - It is a crime of opportunity so be good neighbors and keep an eye out for each other.
 - Thieves use vans/trucks and battery operated saw-alls
 - Call 911 immediately for suspected activity.

HPCC Update - Stephanie Walsh

- Firing Range - See HPCC websites for schedule; new dates added since last month
 - March 1 at 1:00 PM
 - March 2 at 11:00 AM
 - March 6 at 9:00 AM
 - March 7 at 11:00 AM
 - May 10 at 8:00 AM
 - May 11 at 8:00 AM
 - A couple of people emailed me about the firing range and I haven't had the chance to respond.
 - The HPCC's Firing Range Working Group has pushed this issue and last fall the mayor's representative made it clear that the city is not interested in responding to concerns about the noise. They continue to refuse to meet with us to discuss scheduling and noise mitigation options.
 - The firing range is not managed by Zone 5. Zone 5 has always been very responsive to our requests and responding to folks in the neighborhood.

- - There are additional things that could be done, but they are labor intensive. If someone would like to volunteer to lead such efforts, I'd be happy to talk with them and connect them with the Firing Range Working Group.

- Boil Water Advisory for parts of the city, including parts of HP
 - From Sunday to Wednesday
 - It didn't affect the whole neighborhood
 - How can people find out about these events in the future?
 - PWSA did robocalls if they had a phone number for the account (I think you can also get a phone number added to the robo call list if you're a renter).
 - The local news media also covered it.
 - Typically the HPCC posts information on our website and Facebook page about these types of issues, but that is typically my job - I wasn't in the boil water area so I found out about it late, and then a water main break and cut to my gas line on Sunday kept me distracted - lost track - I apologize - we do the best we can but we're all volunteers and we have our limits, too

- March 16th Community Meeting will be a Meet the Candidates Night
 - School Board and City Council candidates for our districts have been invited

- HPCC Blog - Earth Day vine cutting project organized by HP's own Karen Toole
 - vine cutting and removal from the area around the Highland Park Reservoir on two Saturdays, April 15 and April 22, from 10 a.m. to noon
 - On the succeeding Sundays, April 16 from at the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, and April 23 at Phipps Garden Center, also from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. participants (including children) will be led in making vine spheres which they can then take home or contribute to a still-in-the-works public art installation
 - Karen - any info on how to sign up
 - Thank you to Diane Avrill (our reporter and star writer) and Nancy Gohring (our newsletter and blog editor)

- Senior IT Services Program Update - Jim Blakley
 - We have reached out and partnered with Vintage. Vintage has committed to
 - Assist with Tech working with older adults trainings
 - Meeting, interview space
 - Policy statement creation.
 - Contacts have been made with CMU's SLICE program, Pitt's Iserve program, Obama HS Student Tech Dept., St. Andrew's Church, and the Theological Seminary for possible Tech recruitment.
 - Postings in newsletters, bulletins, bulletin Boards.
 - A draft Tech application has been completed.

- Planning for a March Rollout publicity announcement.
- Possible April implementation.
- Stay tuned!

- If you like what the HPCC does - - we need you! Volunteers needed
 - Board recruitment
 - Hullabaloo, Yard Sale, and Bryant Street Festival Volunteers
 - Post volunteer email address:

Sabrina Culyba - presentation on recycling

- You put your recycling out on trash day but how confident are you about what you put in your bin? Find out how good your recycling game is with insights, tips, and gotchas from Highland Park neighbor - and HPCC VP - Sabrina Culyba, who runs the free local website RecycleThisPgh.com
- Recycling resources:
 -