

May 2011

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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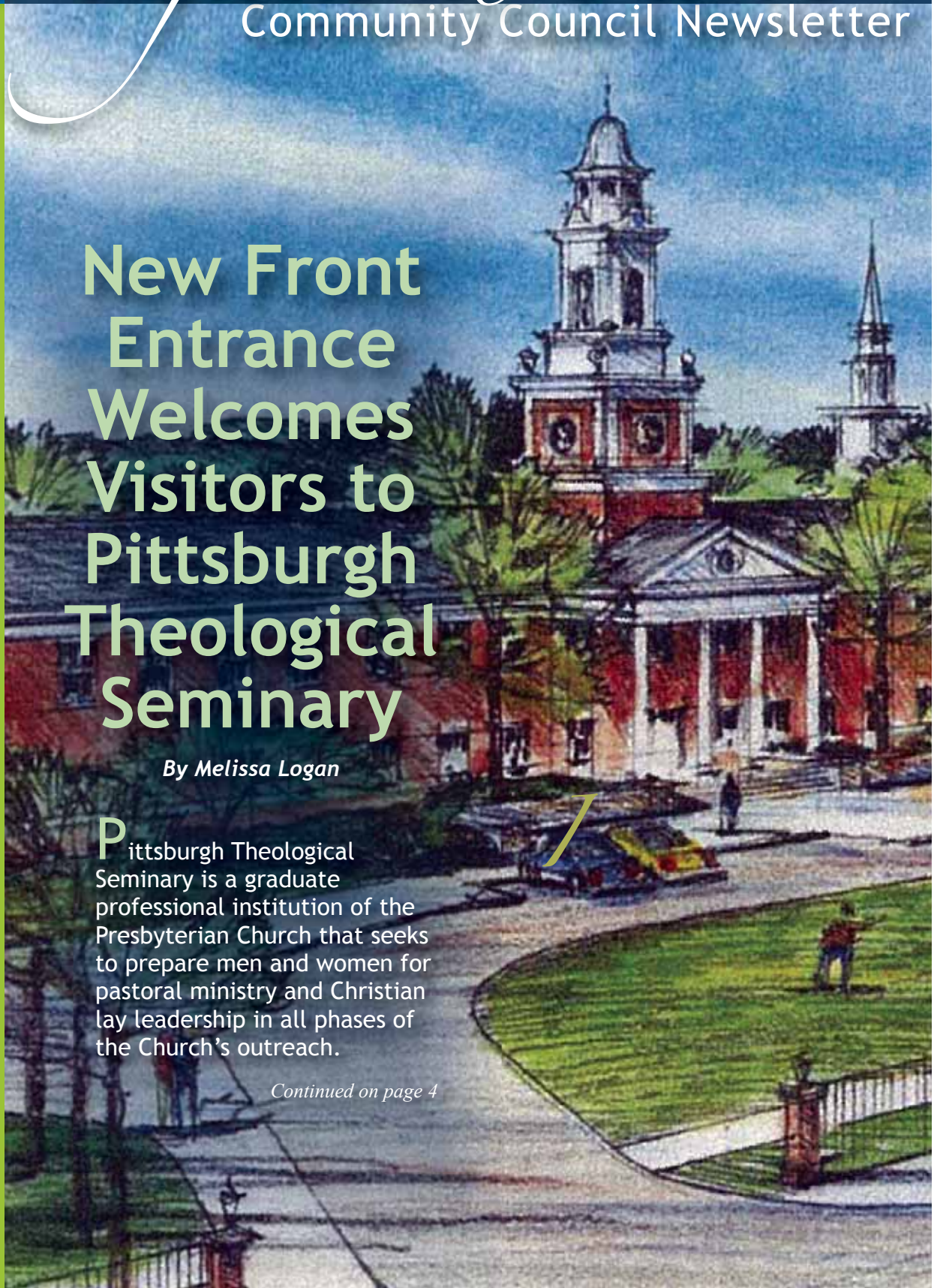
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New Front Entrance Welcomes Visitors to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

By Melissa Logan

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a graduate professional institution of the Presbyterian Church that seeks to prepare men and women for pastoral ministry and Christian lay leadership in all phases of the Church's outreach.

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A Letter from the President

The Highland Park Community Council publishes ten newsletters a year, but only one - the one you have now - is physically mailed to every address in our neighborhood. So this is my chance to tell you about your chance to get involved. The HPCC is an easy way for you to connect with like-minded neighbors about issues that interest you. Whether your jollies come from being part of block parties or block watches; whether your kids' favorite hangout is the Super Playground, Heth's Playground or the Farmhouse; whether you have a passion for tasty coffee, majestic animals or tennis, there are ways to indulge your fancy within our neighborhood and connect to others who feel the same. Through the HPCC, your neighbors around you are already doing great things! Just a few weeks back, Nancy Arnold helped lead a drive to plant trees up and down Portland Street. Paul Miller is gearing up for the annual Highland Park Yard Sale; Kelly Vitti is helping pull things together for the Bryant Street Festival, to be held the same day. Monica Watt is laboring tirelessly to bring you this community newsletter; David Atkinson has been slaving on our new website; Teri Rucker is bringing on the children's events. You and I have the privilege of living among all these people. And you can join them, or make your own contribution. (Or both - we're very open-minded!)

So sign up for the neighborhood ListServ, and check out the local goings-on, at www.highlandparkpa.com. Join us for our monthly meetings, third Thursdays at 7 PM at St. Andrew's Church. Get into a neighborhood discussion at www.facebook.com/highland.park.pittsburgh. Spend some time hanging out on your porch and saying hi to the folks who live around you. Build the sort of neighborhood that makes you want to never leave - or that, if you do leave anyway, blesses you tons of warm memories. I hope that you enjoy this newsletter (including the companion article to the right, authored by my favorite Highland Park resident), and I hope to see you around the neighborhood sometime soon!

Eric D. Randall, *HPCC President*

My campaign to promote Haiti H2O (www.haitih2o.org) here in Highland Park began back in November with the opportunity to join Friendship Community Church's 2011 spring break trip to Haiti. Haiti H2O works with rural Haitian communities cultivating hope and opportunities. Friendship works closely with Jeff and Sarah VanderMolen, Haiti H2O founders and Highland Park residents, supporting a church in the village of Bassin Caiman, a community of 7,000 tucked between a hill and the Caribbean Sea in western Haiti. Like most of Haiti, the landscape is harsh, with infrequent rain. Most of the people are charcoal farmers, cutting down trees to make charcoal. Haiti H2O's partnerships with the Bassin Caimin Church and other U.S churches have helped establish a 150-student school, an outhouse, a pump for fresh water, a kitchen, a meeting room, and a bread oven, which provides local women the opportunity to make a living. Haiti H2O's latest efforts involve building composting toilets, which will help prevent the spread of disease.

I asked the Highland Park business community for donation items for our Haiti team's fundraiser auction a few weeks back. I am very pleased by their generosity! Several wonderful items were donated, ranging from gift certificates to gift baskets and a complimentary oil change. Thank you to Stacey's Dynamic Salon and Barbering, Food Glorious Food, Lou Iezzi and Sons, Inc., E2, Park Bruges, Bryant Street Market, and Paulette's Hair Artistry! Hope and opportunity become realities for the Bassin Caiman residents with these donations. Please support these businesses with your patronage, as they generously look to the interests of others less fortunate than themselves.

The Run for Hope team (56 runners and 4 walkers) will be raising funds for Haiti H2O by participating in the Pittsburgh Marathon. If you would like to sponsor one of them, visit www.active.com/donate/Haitih2o or contact Sarah VanderMolen at PO Box 5445, Pittsburgh, PA 15206; 412-685-4022; or sdvander@haitih2o.org. I will be at the Haiti H2O water station, supporting them with cold water, smiles and encouragement. Our neighborhood is honored to be a Pittsburgh Marathon neighborhood. Come out and show support for all the participants, especially our own residents and local merchants!

Susan Randall, *First Lady of HPCC*

March 2011

Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm with a quorum present.

Patrick Dowd, City Councilman, reported on the **Verizon cell tower** to be installed at the Zoo. The tower was approved by the Zoning Board, contingent upon a landscaping plan approved by the community. Patrick also reported that the water/sewer line insurance that the PWSA was offering to all City residents has been cancelled due to a lawsuit by a private company that provides the same service.

Kevin Bivins, **Pittsburgh Fulton Principal**, spoke about the growth of the school and activities that are taking place there. He is looking for involvement from the community to make the school even better.

Nancy Arnold announced the **Spring tree planting** will be taking place on April 2nd, with about 30 trees being planted around the Jackson and Portland Street area.

Monica Watt spoke about the **Newsletter** going out electronically to the Highland Park email list. This is to cut down on costs and see if more community members get involved.

The speaker for the meeting was Commander Linda Barone from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. She spoke about the **Community Safety Website**, which is designed to communicate and inform the public of various safety related issues. The community can access alerts, police blotters and submit tips. Additional information can be found at www.communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov.

The April meeting will be held at the Union Project on Thursday, April 21st, starting at 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

April 2011

Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm with a quorum present.

Al Mann announced the annual **Kiwanis Club fundraiser** will take place Friday May 6th in East Liberty.

Kelly Vitti and Bob Staresinic spoke about the **Marathon Party** on May 15th and the **Bryant Street Festival** on June 5th, both of which will take place on Bryant Street.

A motion was made and duly seconded to amend the **2011-2012 HPCC Budget** to include the recent DCED grant monies. The motion passed with 9 For, 0 Against and none Abstaining. The PA Department of Community and Economic Development provided a grant of \$12,500.00 which will be used for the Reservoir of Jazz, Bryant Street Festival, the mass mailing of the newsletter, and children's activities.

Devon Toy from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy spoke about the **School Grounds Greening Project**. There have been plantings done around the schools which need care after the schools are out for the year. The Greening Project is **looking for volunteers** from the community to water and weed the school plantings to keep them alive.

Kevin Bivins, **Pittsburgh Fulton Principal**, spoke about the school. The students have been increasing their scores in reading and consistently have the **highest math scores in the district**. Mr. Bivins is trying to increase the music programs available at the school.

He is looking for ideas about what the community wants at Fulton.

The program for the evening consisted of the **District 2 School Board** candidates introducing themselves and answering questions. Dara Ware Allen, current School Board Director and Dr. Regina Holley presented what they see as the issues facing the Pittsburgh Public Schools and how to address these issues. Celina Basant was not present.

Valerie McDonald Roberts, candidate for **County Controller**, introduced herself and briefly spoke about her experience for the position.

The next meeting of the HPCC will be Thursday, May 19th at St Andrews Church, beginning at 7 pm. Kevin Bivins from Pittsburgh Fulton will be speaking further about the school and how the community can be involved.



New Front Entrance Welcomes Visitors to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Continued from cover.

Founded in 1959, the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's (PTS) 13-acre campus includes nine buildings, among them a theological library open to the public. Also of interest to the community is the Bible Lands Museum which provides a significant collection of ancient Near Eastern and Palestinian pottery and artifacts brought together by travelers and archaeologists during the past 60 years.

In mid-September, PTS began an exciting construction project that will create a new entryway to its campus. For more than 50 years, visitors have noted that the Seminary lacks a clear "front door" for first-time visitors. Perhaps you too have found yourself winding your way to the back parking lots, all the time wondering where to go to register for or attend an event or even simply to get information.

In addition, neighbors in the Highland Park and East Liberty communities have often said that the ominous iron fence gives the impression the Seminary's not interested in interaction with the surrounding community. One young student from Peabody High School said that she assumed some kind of "reform school" sat on these grounds. Well, the Seminary is a Reformed school, but she meant something else!

So we're changing the entrance from off-putting to approachable. PTS is doing so through the creation of a semi-circular driveway on the Highland Avenue side of Long Hall; the reconfiguration of Long Hall's front stairs, doorway, and foyer to facilitate accessibility; and enhanced landscaping and green space. We're adding beauty to the campus and opening the doors to those who want to learn more about the resources we have to offer.



The Seminary believes this project will enhance the cityscape along Highland Avenue and make a clear statement that PTS very much wants to be a part of the community outside the grounds. Scheduled for completion this spring, the new "front door" will physically stamp the campus with the Seminary's mission of "bridging the Word and the world." Next time you pass by, come on in - the door's open!

Sally Henry, a student at PTS and a newcomer to Highland Park, offers her perspective on our community...

My husband Kim and I came from a peach orchard in Palisade, Colorado to Pittsburgh so I could attend PTS for my Masters of Divinity degree to be a Presbyterian minister. One of the reasons we moved, instead of opting for doing classes online through another institution, was that we wanted to be a part of the seminary and surrounding community.

We chose to live off-campus, and intentionally found a place close to the school and with a layout conducive to having people over to visit. We were thankful to find our old, newly remodeled house on Wellesley. Apparently it sat vacant for years after a fire and we are the first ones to live in it since the remodel. We try to open our home regularly so other students and our neighbors can come and relax and forget about studies and responsibilities, if just for an evening.

We have come to really enjoy living in Pittsburgh and especially the Highland Park area. Coming from a part of the country where trees only exist where people plant them (high desert), the landscape throughout the seasons has been a real treat! We've been able to join the tree-planting group a couple of times since we've been here - planting on Highland Ave. as well as behind the seminary grounds.

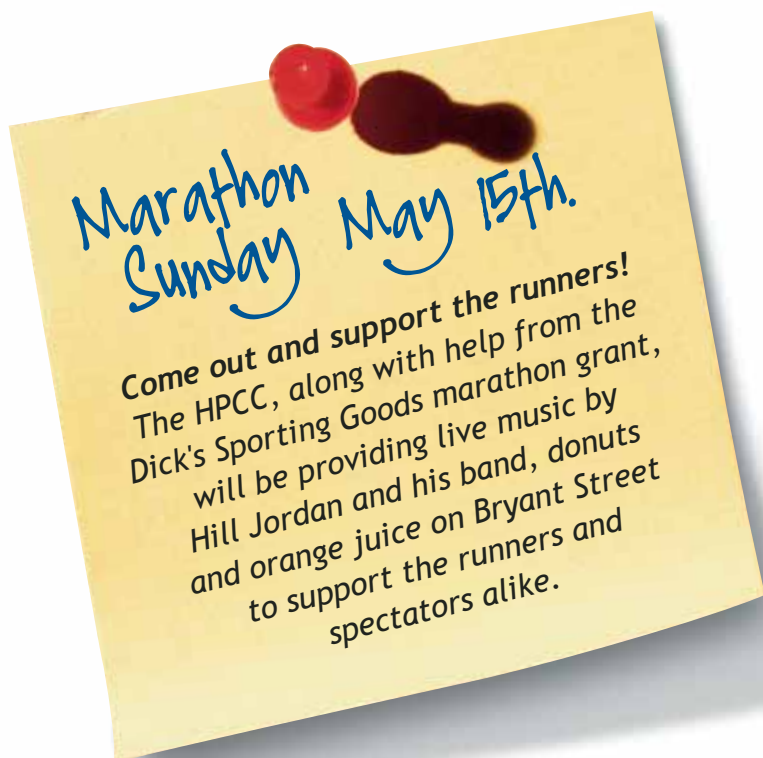
At the seminary we have many students who love to get involved in community activities. It can be a challenge between the extremely challenging first-year studies followed by a second year that includes ten hours of field education (or more) at area churches. I think our biggest "community involvement" is studying at Tazza Doro! But it's a goal of the students to be more intentional about community both on and off the campus. I hope through opportunities like this article, we can continue to reach out to each other. We all value this great neighborhood and know that there is even more potential to be discovered!

You might also be interested to know...

The Continuing Education program at PTS offers a basic core of events, with contemporary topics added in consultation with a dedicated committee of faculty, area clergy, and laity. These events include five annual lectureships, commissioned lay pastor training, travel study trips, interim ministry training, continuing education for psychologists and social workers, and certification courses for Christian educators.

PTS also has two concerts each year - at Christmas time and in the spring.

For more information on the offerings at PTS simply go to their website at www.pts.edu.



The University of Pittsburgh is accepting healthy boys and men ages 8-35 for a paid research study on autism

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

*The Rev. Dr. Bruce Monroe Robison, Rector
The Ven. Archdeacon Jean D. Chess, Deacon
Peter J. Luley, Organist & Choirmaster*

At St. Andrew's

*Sunday Morning Services
9 a.m.
In the Chapel
11 a.m.
Choral Service in the Anglican Tradition*

*Nursery Care: 8:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Church School, Youth, and Adult Programs,
Sunday Mornings, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.*

*Wednesday Morning Service
Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.
Rector's Bible Study 11:15 a.m. – Noon*

*Choral Evensong
First Thursday of the Month, 8 p.m.
Third Sunday of the Month, 4:30 p.m.*

*Check our Website for Special and Holiday
Services and Activities*

You Are Welcome Here

**5801 Hampton Street, Highland Park, Pittsburgh
412 661-1245 www.standrewspgh.org**

HPCC Launches NEW Website and Asks...

“What does Highland Park Mean to You?”

Highland Park is a great place to live. You can walk to one of Pittsburgh's grand parks, visit the zoo, eat a croque madame for brunch, learn to use a pottery wheel or send your child to an elementary school with the highest math scores in city of Pittsburgh. The Highland Park Community Council is proud to be part of our neighborhood, and we are proud to release our new website where residents and visitors can learn more about our community.

The site is well under way, but we still need a great tagline that sums up what our unique community is all about. We are looking for 50 characters or less, and if the HPCC Board votes your tagline the winner, dinner is on us! (Not to exceed \$50. We are a non-profit after all.)

Visit our new website at www.highlandparkpa.com, enter the tagline contest and you might be the winner of dinner for two at one of our wonderful restaurants! The winner will be voted on at the June HPCC meeting.

At the new HPCC website you can learn about Highland Park, local businesses, schools, children's activities, public safety and city services.

You can join HPCC, volunteer or sign up for the HPCC eNewsletter and the Highland Park ListServ. You can even enter your email address under 'HPCC Website Subscription' and keep up to date on HPCC news, as well events in the community.

Several of us on the HPCC Board have been working hard to provide content that is accurate and up to date. If you would like to volunteer to help with website content or if you have suggestions, please email Dave at westpennworks@gmail.com.





The Great Highland Park Yard Sale & Bryant Street Festival

Sunday, June 5th

Yard Sale

The festivities begin the first Sunday in June (the 5th) with our massive, multi-family Highland Park Community Council Yard Sale and Bryant Street Festival. Beginning at 9 a.m., hundreds of Highland Park residences will open their yards and sidewalks for a day full of shopping. To make the most of your treasure hunt, maps will be made available in the morning, listing all of the homes that are participating and what type of items they have for sale. There is sure to be something for everyone!

Do you have items to sell? It is easy to participate. Simply fill out the form provided below and send in your \$15 fee to have your address and sale items included in our handout. With the exception of your address and the items you wish to sell, all information is confidential. Your form **MUST** be received by Friday, May 27th to be included in the handout.

For those of you living in an apartment or on a side street with limited foot traffic, we will be hosting the Highland Park Flea Market at the corner of Bryant Street and Highland Avenue. If this is of interest, please check the box below. There will be an option to rent tables and chairs for the flea market. Space will be limited so don't delay.

Once you sign up, don't forget to pick-up your Yard Sale signs and balloons the Saturday before the yard sale (June 4th) on the front porch of the mailing address provided below.

Bryant Street Festival

After a healthy morning of walking our tree-lined streets in search of your favorite yard sale find, we invite you to join us on Bryant Street, the heart of our business district, for a family festival full of live entertainment on our main stage and new acoustical stage, food and games. The festival runs from 12 Noon - 5 p.m. Enjoy face painting (1-4pm), balloon art (3:00 - 4:30pm) and kid's activities courtesy of Fulton School. The Union Project will have a clay wheel working and local artists will be displaying and selling their work while our local restaurants provide the food!



The Bryant Street Festival has openings for local artists interested in showing or selling their work. Please reply to festival@highlandparkpa.com to register.

Yard Sale Participation Form

Name _____ Street Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

If you are interested in the Bryant Street Flea Market option, check here: Yes

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 in placed in the map handout.

Please mail (or drop off) the form and a check (made out to the HPCC) for \$15 to Paul Miller, 5714 Elgin Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. For questions, please call (412) 365-0675 or email YardSale@highlandparkpa.com.

Around St. Andrew's

By Bruce Robison



Eastertide and spring - and may it be a season of much joy all around, after our long winter. Two great services of Choral Evensong will mark May around St. Andrew's in Highland Park.

The first, our regularly scheduled "First Thursday of the Month" service of Choral Evensong, 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, with the St. Andrew's Parish Choir, will be a festive Eastertide service, followed by a very special recital by Pittsburgh jazz pianist Bill McConnel- and all that followed by a festive reception in Brooks Hall. All are welcome.


And on the Third Sunday of the month, May 15, we'll all recuperate from a fun Pittsburgh "Marathon Sunday" at 4:30 p.m. with a service of Choral Evensong, sung by the St. Andrew's Schola Cantorum, and with Guest Preacher the Rev. Janet Grill, Pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, in the Oakland neighborhood. Again, all are welcome.

And a Sunday morning highlight for us will be on Sunday, May 22, when we will welcome our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Price, who will join us at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services - to include confirmations, receptions, the blessing of prayer shawls, and a Children's Five Talents Market Day event to focus on our outreach and mission partners in Lima, Peru.

Sunday services at St. Andrew's will continue with the regular schedule - a simpler service at 9 a.m., a choral service at 11 a.m. - through the end of June. During July and August the service times shift to the "summer schedule," with services at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Our highly regarded Godly Play Children's Program will continue through the 22nd of May at the 9:45-10:45 Sunday morning hour. During June, July, and August the children's programs are scheduled during a portion of the later service hour on selected Sundays.

Also of interest for families, St. Andrew's will be conducting a "Choristers Camp" during the week of July 11 - 15, for elementary/middle school aged children who may be interested in beginning or continuing in our exceptionally rich children's music program. Please contact the Organist and Choirmaster (and Highland Park neighbor) Peter Luley for more information via the Church Office.



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. Call us at 412 661-1245, or check us out on the web: www.standrewspgh.org. 





A Letter from Councilman Patrick Dowd

Dear Neighbors,

It's that time of year, when our collective thoughts turn to warm weather, spending time outdoors, planting in our community gardens, and...potholes? Neglected properties? Graffiti? Illegal dumping?

Warmer months bring concerns that affect our whole community. The District 7 team is in the office and in your neighborhood to help with issues that affect everyone's quality of life. We work with all levels of local government to ensure that our neighborhoods are strong and well taken care of. Please feel free to phone us at 412.255.2140 or email ditrict7@city.pittsburgh.pa.us with your questions and concerns. And remember, the 3-1-1 line is always ready to assist with any situation. Need to find the phone number of a City department? Need to report a pothole or broken street light? You can simply dial 3-1-1 between 8:30am and 4pm and a service representative will assist you. You can also use the 311 Form at www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/html/311_request_form.html to report any neighborhood problems. So, please remember, we're here to help you. We're just a call or email away.

Very best regards,

Councilman Patrick Dowd

The following graph indicates the categories of nearly 300 issues we have addressed in District 7, just since the beginning of 2011.



Incident Primary Category

- crime/fire
- economic development
- land use
- other
- property maintenance
- public health
- public infrastruc...
- real estate
- recreation
- taxes/finance
- transportation

HPCC Officers

President

Eric Randall (412) 661-1176

Vice President

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902

Treasurer

Kelly Vitti (412) 361-7669

Secretary

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

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Dave Atkinson

Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

Jana Finder (412) 370-3778

Al Mann

Rachel Matos (412) 361-3802

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Mike Nadler (412) 363-3483

Nancy Levine-Arnold

Sarah Trbovic

HPCC Committee

Beautification -

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902

Children's Events -

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Education - Dave Atkinson

House Tour - OPEN

Finance - Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742

Membership - Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331

membership@highlandparkpa.com

Newsletter - Monica Watt (412) 361-7902

editor@highlandparkpa.com

Nominating - Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

Public Safety -

Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

public-safety@highlandparkpa.com

Reservoir of Jazz -

Ethan Winograd (412) 352-2767

Super Playground -

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902 &

Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366

Yard Sale - Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Welcoming - Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

Zoning - Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742

The City of Pittsburgh will conduct a curbside yard debris pickup on Saturday, May 21. Acceptable items to be placed in paper bags include: leaves, grass, plants, tree trimmings, branches, shrubs.

The City does NOT accept: stones, dirt, rocks, manure, garbage, lumber or food waste on this day.

Questions - call Environmental Services at 412.255.2773.



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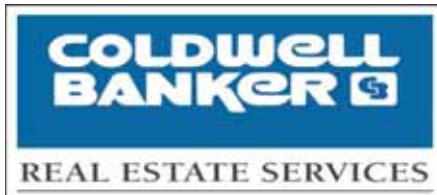
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Join the HPCC Today!

The Highland Park Community Council has over 500 members who represent families, individuals and businesses within our community. The organization is an all-volunteer effort.

The volunteers of the HPCC have conducted many events / projects over the years to promote and enhance the quality of life in Highland Park. The most noticeable are the annual community wide Yard Sale and Bryant Street Festival in June and Reservoir of Jazz free concerts in the park in August. These events bring thousands of people to our community annually.

To join the HPCC, please go to our NEW website and download an HPCC Membership Form.

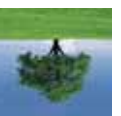
www.highlandparkpa.com

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Highland Park
Community Council



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