

October 2011

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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Halloween Happenings in Highland Park



A Letter from the President

Our daughter Cleo is two and a half. One of the movies she currently requests to watch on a fairly regular basis is Lilo and Stitch - that cute movie about the evil experiment from outer space who crash lands in Hawaii and gets adopted by two sisters. My wife Sue was remarking the other day that she's never actually watched the movie the entire way through, so she's a little befuddled by the overall plot, though she recognizes many individual parts. For the longest time, I had had a similar experience with the movie Spaceballs - to solve this problem, I actually requested that the movie be shown as part of my bachelor party.

It's funny how something can be such a common fixture in our lives that we tend to ignore it - not even notice the subtle details, or take the time to properly appreciate it. The other day, I happened to listen - really listen - to Billy Joel's "Piano Man." I have heard the song, no doubt, hundreds of times over the last couple of decades, but this was the first time I noticed that there's a mandolin playing in the background. I was shocked. Really!!? It was very pretty. Thinking about it, back when I first got into Billy Joel, I didn't play guitar, and



would have been less likely to notice a mandolin than I am now. Even so, it's still a surprise, and it makes me wonder how many other things are right under my nose, but go unnoticed.

Here is my challenge to you this month - discover something about our neighborhood that is new to you - something that you've never taken the time to notice before. And take the time to appreciate and enjoy it. And here's a hint - try to get it in before the weather gets too cold!

And May the Schwartz Be With You!

Eric D. Randall, *HPCC President*

PS. The HPCC recently elected a new slate of officers. My thanks to Monica Watt and Bob Staresinic, who are staying on as VP and Secretary; Paul Miller, who will be taking on the role of Treasurer; and Nancy Schultz, Glenn Schultz, Teri Rucker and Laura Smith, who are joining our board. Thanks also to Kelly Vitti, who has faithfully served the HPCC as Treasurer since the waning days of the Clinton administration, and to outgoing board members Jana Finder, Paul Miller, Rachel Matos and Mike Nadler (may he live forever!).



HPCC September Meeting Minutes

by *Bob Staresinic*



Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a quorum present. Nominations were made, and duly seconded, for Officers (2011-2012) and Directors (2011-2014).

The following members were nominated:

President: Eric Randall
Vice President: Monica Watt
Treasurer: Paul Miller
Secretary: Bob Staresinic
Director: Glen Schultz
Director: Teri Rucker
Director: Laura Smith

In addition, Nancy Schultz was nominated to fill the 2010-2013 Director position that Rachel Matos continued in for the past year.

The slate of candidates was presented, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Kelly Vitti, the Treasurer since 2000, was recognized for her many years of service in that position.

City Councilman Bill Peduto spoke about the recent flooding that occurred over the Summer throughout his district and the East End. There has been an increase in flooding due to poor maintenance and management of the storm water system. There are discussions happening with officials from the City and County on how to better manage storm water.

City Councilman Patrick Dowd spoke about the flooding situation on Washington Blvd in July and August. That area is a low point where much of the storm water flows thru, and needs to be redesigned to handle the volume of water that flows thru and has a place of escape if it backs up.

Budgets for the HPCC Committees are due so the **2011-2012 Budget** can be established.

If there is any interest in reviving the **House Tour**, please contact Eric Randall, President. He is looking for someone to chair the committee.

Nancy Arnold announced a **tree planting on November 5th**, along Heberton and Winterton Streets. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Nancy.

Kelly Vitti is selling **Highland Park t-shirts** to raise money for the Bryant Street Festival. Check the Highland Park website or contact Kelly to purchase one.

Glen Shultz reported on the **Verizon cell tower** erected for the Zoo. The tower is up, but the landscaping or screening from Lake Drive is not enough. He is in contact with the Zoo, as the HPCC was to approve the landscaping plan as part of the zoning decision.

Join us at our **October 20th meeting**. Controller Michael Lamb's office will speak to the Community Council about the state of the city's finances and Michael Chapman will give us an introduction to Obama IB at Peabody.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.



Halloween Happenings in Highland Park

This year the City of Pittsburgh's official trick-or-treating hours are from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on Monday, October 31st.

Highland Park Community Council Halloween Parade

When: Sunday, October 30, 3pm to 4 pm
Where: Highland Park Victorian Fountain, main entrance to the Park

Your little ghouls, goblins, princesses and princes are invited to the annual Highland Park Community Council Halloween Parade.

Local children of all ages are invited to join us in costume for the Halloween parade and costume contest. Prizes will be awarded in a number of different categories and delicious snacks will be provided. The parade is being held the day before Halloween, since Oct. 31 falls on a school night and we wanted to give everyone maximum trick or treating time before bedtime. No sign-up required.

Union Project - Pumpkin Carving

When: Saturday, October 15th, 11:30 am-3:30pm
Where: Union Project, 801 N Negley Avenue

I actually did this last year and had a ball. It is great for kids of all ages. Choose either a small (\$15) or large (\$25) hollow clay pumpkin, and carve any ghoulish face you like. Each clay pumpkin is individually made by members of the Union Project Ceramics Coop. Once the pumpkin is carved, the UP staff will fire it so it will last a lifetime, with proper handling of course. Sign-up online at unionproject.org/Ceramics/Ceramic_Classes



Pittsburgh Zoo - Zoo Boo

When: Sunday, October 30, 2011, 11am-4pm
Where: Pittsburgh Zoo

Venture through the Zoo collecting candy, enjoying the animals, and participating in other fun activities along the way. Stop by your favorite haunts - Gymkhana's Haunted hideaway and the not-so-spooky train ride. Conjure up a frightfully fun costume for the Halloween Parade and Costume Contest at Water's Edge. Make a deliciously sweet treat at Casper's Craft Corner or get spooked at the Docent Council's Haunted House.

All activities are free and are included with general admission. Trick-or-Treat bags provided to all children 13 and under. Bags will be distributed until 3 p.m. For more information go to <http://zoo.pgh.pa.us/event.aspx>.



Haunted Oakland Walking Tour

When: Sundays, October 16, 23 & 30, 6:00 pm
Where: At the bottom of the steps of the Hillman Library, Oakland

Journey with us back to the Gilded Age of rag-time and of robber barons, of boastful mansions bathed in gaslight, and of a "Millionaire's Row" that was the most exclusive address in America.

Writer James Parton once called Pittsburgh "hell with the lid off." We let our guests decide how accurate that is. But we can assert this without fear of contradiction: our city's character was forged in vicious labor strife and in pig iron furnaces so hot that men and women sometimes forgot their fear of hell. Any town that's experienced the turbulence ours has seen simply can't escape its ghosts, and Pittsburgh is teeming with them.

Hear the bizarre and otherworldly tales about the Cathedral of Learning; the majestic Carnegie Library and Museum; the spectacularly haunted Bruce Hall; the Pittsburgh Playhouse; the Frick Fine Arts Building; the old Schenley Hotel (now William Pitt Union); even home plate at old Forbes Field, and many others. To sign-up go to hauntedpittsburghtours.com.

The All Saints Music Festival each year is one of the great highlights of our parish and neighborhood.

The event begins this year on All Saints Day, Tuesday, November 1st, at 8 p.m., when the All Saints Festival Chorus, under the direction of Thomas Octave, Director of the College Singers at St. Vincent's College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, will perform "A Service of Lessons and Carols for All Saints Day."

On Thursday evening, November 3rd, at 8 p.m. the Choristers of St. Andrew's Church, under the direction of Matthew Derby, will sing a service of Choral Evensong, followed by a performance in recital by The Bloomfield Liedertafel, under the direction of Edward G. Helgerman.

On Friday evening, November 4, at 8 p.m., there will be a "Candlelight Recital," featuring Nathan Carterette, piano, and Rowena Gutana, cello, in an all-Bach program, including the Goldberg Variations and the Unaccompanied Suite for Cello.



AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

Finally, on All Saints Sunday, November 6, the 11 a.m. Orchestral Holy Communion will feature the Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra, conducted by Thomas Octave, with the service music of Franz Schubert's Mass in G Major, sung in the context of the liturgy. A festive reception will follow in Brooks Hall.

All concerts and receptions in the All Saints Festival are free and open to the public.

The tradition at St. Andrew's is to celebrate our patronal festival, the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (which actually falls on the 30th

of November) on the Sunday before the Thanksgiving Weekend. So this year that's Sunday, November 20.

We will welcome to St. Andrew's once again this year our good friends of the Syria Highlanders Pipe and Drum Corps. Weather permitting, the Highlanders will "serenade" the neighborhood from the St. Andrew's Churchyard on Hampton Street between 10:40 and 11 a.m. on the 21st, and then lead a grand procession into the Church for the annual St. Andrew's Service. All are invited - and please stay for the festive reception that follows the service, at about noon.

Later that same Sunday afternoon, at 4:30 p.m., Choral Evensong will be sung by St. Andrew's Schola Cantorum, with sermon by Guest





Preacher the Rev. Steven McKeown, of the Community of Celebration, in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, and member of the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh.

Our annual Thanksgiving Eve service will follow on Wednesday, November 23, with a service of Holy Communion at 8 p.m., with traditional harvest hymns. As always on this evening, we are invited to bring as a part of our Thanksgiving offering an item of non-perishable food to contribute to the East End Food Pantry.

We may wish to look ahead as well to the December Evensong, Thursday, December 1, also at 8 p.m., sung by the Parish Choir, and with recital following the service by the Aurelian Trio.

Lots of other things going on around the parish as well, of course, as late fall begins to turn toward Advent. The kids will soon begin to rehearse the annual Pageant of Christmas, and all the great traditions of the season come 'round again...

St. Andrew's has been at the heart of the Highland Park neighborhood for more than a century. If there is ever 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.



How to Choose a Public School in Pittsburgh's East End

By David Atkinson, HPCC Education Committee Chairperson

Choosing a public school for your child can be a daunting task. A good way to start learning about school options is to visit www.highlandparkpa.com and click on Kid's Zone to download the HPCC Public School Guide - 2011. Additional school data information is available from A+ Schools.

Public schools are taxpayer funded schools that do not charge tuition. Schools run by the Pittsburgh School District include neighborhood schools, whole magnet schools and partial magnet schools.

Neighborhood schools are the default choice for students in their "feeder pattern" or neighborhood. Partial Magnet schools encompass a portion of the neighborhood school, and are a program within a school. Whole magnet schools feature a course of study, and all students must apply.

Public schools also include charter and cyber schools. Charter schools are public schools licensed by the School District but run independently. All students must apply. Cyber schools are online programs offering K-12 curriculum; they must be licensed by the Commonwealth. All students must apply.

Here's a step by step plan for choosing the school that is right for you and your family.

Step 1 - Consider your child and your family's needs, your child's learning style and the location of school. Start your search for the best school by thinking about what you want a school to do for your child. Does your child need a more or less structured environment? Does your child need more challenging work? Does your child need more individual attention? Does your child learn best by seeing, reading or listening? How active is your child?

Step 2 - Gather information about schools including safety, academic performance and special offerings. Shopping for a school is like shopping for a car or any other big purchase, there are numerous factors to consider. Safety encompasses the school's overall approach to behavior policy. What is the discipline policy? How does the school prevent and handle violence, bullying, harassment, and other forms of abusive behavior? Academic performance includes not just PSSA scores but curriculum and achievement. Does the school have a particular approach to learning? Do you think your child will enjoy and learn from this approach? Where do graduates of this school go after attending this school? Special offerings may include the focus of a magnet, clubs, arts, sports and other activities. What does the school offer?

Step 3 - Visit and observe schools. Schools typically have open houses in the fall, but you can contact the school directly and ask for a tour from school staff. Factors to consider include the principal, the teachers, the culture, the students and parent/community involvement. What is the principal's philosophy about education? Do the students appear to be courteous, happy and disciplined? Is the school neat and clean? Do teachers have high expectations for all students to achieve to high academic standards? What is the attendance rate for students? Do you and your child feel comfortable in the school?

Step 4 - Apply to the school(s) you choose. Magnet, charter and cyber schools all require the parents to submit an application.

Applications for magnet schools in the Pittsburgh School District are due December 16, 2011.



Trees for Highland Park; Many Hands Make Light Work

by Nancy Arnold, HPCC Beautification Committee Chairperson

Please volunteer to help make Highland Park more beautiful. We need volunteers to help plant trees on Saturday, November 5, 2011. TreeVitalize Pittsburgh has awarded Highland Park 41 street trees to plant on Heberton and Winterton streets. The trees are free, but our community needs to plant them. We need volunteers from 8:45 am to noon (rain or shine). If you can volunteer, contact Nancy Arnold. nlevinearnold@gmail.com or 412 414 8449.

Children ages 8 and older are encouraged to help along with their parents or a responsible adult. We hope to have activities for younger children.

If you can't make it, there are other ways to contribute. You can make a tax-deductible donation of \$5 to \$25 to buy food for the volunteers. Make your checks payable to TreePittsburgh. Write "Highland Park" in the memo line on the check. Mail them to (or just put them in my mail slot) Nancy Arnold, 1232 N Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206. You can also bake something for the volunteers such as, cookies, muffins, breads, etc.

Thanks to our community volunteers and organizers, this will be our sixth Highland Park Tree Planting since 2009! Here is what trees do for our community:

1. Make our neighborhood a beautiful and pleasant place to walk in or drive through
2. Decrease crime
3. Increase the value of our houses
4. Calm traffic
5. Decrease our heating and cooling costs
6. Decrease air and water pollution
7. Help manage storm water run-off

For more details on how trees benefit our neighborhood and a look at the studies that support these claims about trees, go to:

www.treepittsburgh.org

Thank You from the Fall 2011 Tree Planting Team.

Fall Redd Up Pittsburgh

October 21, 22 & 23

Most Pittsburgh neighborhoods will be participating in the Fall Redd Up, October 21, 22 & 23. It's not too late to volunteer.

Contact Bob Staresinic, 412-441-8972 or bob.63@netzero.net. He is your Redd Up contact in the neighborhood.

Health Fair **Sunday, October 23rd from** **12:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

East Liberty Presbyterian Church Health Ministry will be hosting a Health Fair for the congregation and neighboring communities in the Church Social Hall. All are invited to participate. The Health fair is an event that will educate and nourish the mind and body. They will offer free education, health screenings and healthy refreshments that benefit children, teenagers, young adults, men, women and seniors. Diabetic screenings and blood pressure checks will be offered free of charge.

Wellness Unwrapped! **Thursday, November 3rd** **from 7:00 pm - 9:30pm**

Kick off the holiday season at Wellness Unwrapped! Discover products and practices to improve your overall well-being and increase the safety of your home and environment for your loved ones. Enjoy refreshments, door prizes, giveaways, and a lively discussion on how to improve your overall well-being prior to the holidays! The Nuin Center, 5655 Bryant Street. Register online at by Tuesday, November 1 at <http://enhancinglivesdaily.weebly.com/events.html>

Highland Park Art and **Craft Fair Call for Artists**

The art fair will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton St., Friday, Dec. 2 from 5pm to 7pm. and Saturday Dec. 3 from 9am to 6pm.

There are several tables still available for those who would like to participate. The fee to participate is \$25.00. We will supply the table, chair, coffee, tea, and donuts to participants. Participants must donate one or more items for a Chinese Auction. The proceeds from the auction will go to the Homeless Children's Education Fund and Animal Friends.

Please contact Sandy Ferguson at 412-661-2222 or e-mail skaferguson@gmail.com to apply. They will accept applications until Oct. 30, 2011 or until all tables are filled.

HPCC Officers

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Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Secretary

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

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Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

Al Mann (412) 661-5947

Nancy Levine-Arnold

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Nancy Schultz

Glenn Schultz

Laura Smith

Sarah Trbovic

HPCC Committee

Beautification -

Nancy Levine-Arnold

Children's Events -

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Education - Dave Atkinson

House Tour - OPEN

Finance - Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742

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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



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**

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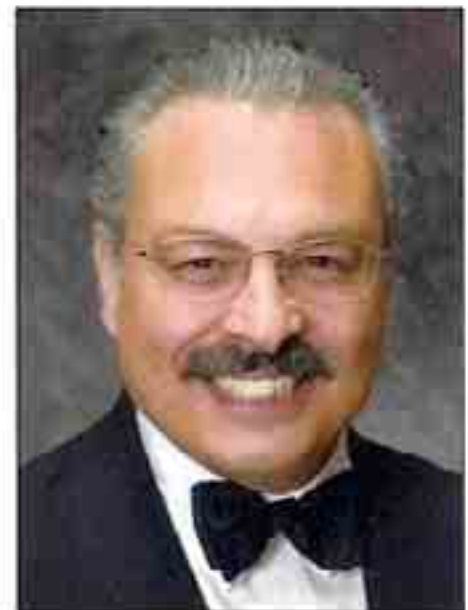
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