

November 2011

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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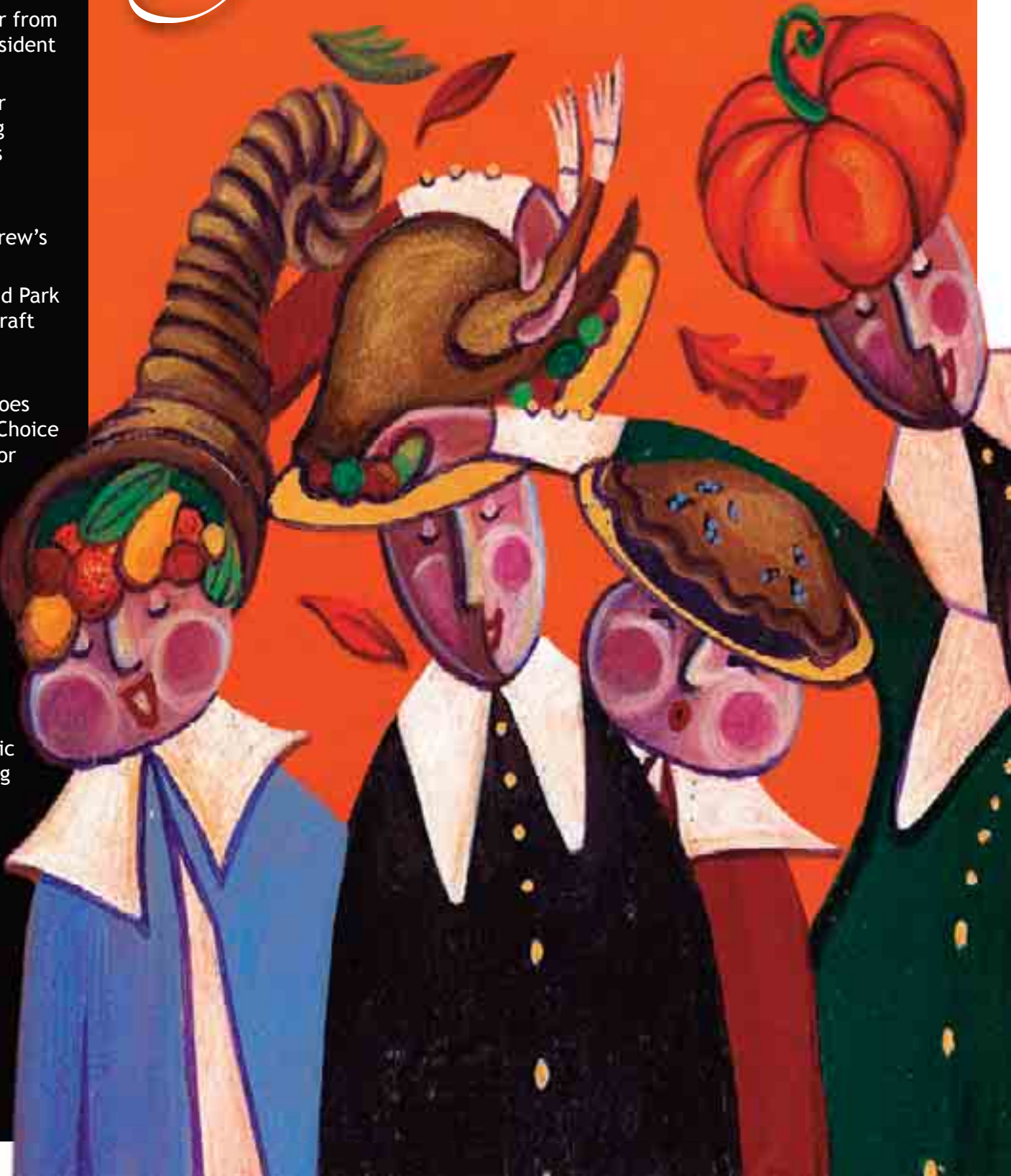
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A Letter from the President

I have mentioned in previous articles that some of my friends and neighbors here attend the same church my family does. One of the things we're doing in an effort to reach out more to the neighborhood is changing the format of the bible study we've been a part of. This year we are spending time watching videos (or video clips) revolving around some social justice issue, then at the following meeting leading a bible study and discussion time revolving around the same social justice issue. We're hoping this will be of enough interest to convince some of our neighbors to attend.

We kicked off just the other week with the documentary *Garbage Dreams*. This movie chronicles the lives of the Zaballeen community, a group of lower-social-status people who live on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. The entire community makes its living by gathering the garbage of Cairo's residents and recycling over 80% of it. They spend all day dealing with garbage - gathering, sorting, rendering it down to plastic paste, bundles of cardboard, chunks of metal, etc. The movie specifically deals with the fact that Cairo is moving towards outsourcing its garbage collection work to multinational companies, and how this affects the Zaballeen community's livelihood, as seen through the eyes of the three main characters, teenage boys who sometimes wonder if there's any future for them beyond collecting garbage. My friend Chloe, who hosts the bible study, has led a number of trips to Cairo and has met many of the people in the film and in the garbage village generally. Her running commentary helped provide additional context as we watched.

The movie is fascinating in many respects - the most consistently striking part is the constant video shots of the garbage village. Practically everybody in town makes their living by recycling garbage, and for this reason there are piles of it in every alley, street and house. To you or me or the actual residents of Cairo, it's trash - filthy, disgusting, dangerous (sharp metal, glass, who knows what else?) - but to the Zaballeen, it is wealth, pure and simple. There are a couple of moments where this perspective comes out very clearly. At one point, a couple of the boys hook into some temporary field trip to see how garbage is collected in other countries; at another, the Zaballeen visit the landfills outside Cairo where the multinational companies, who are contractually obligated to recycle only 20% of the garbage they collect, dump what's left.





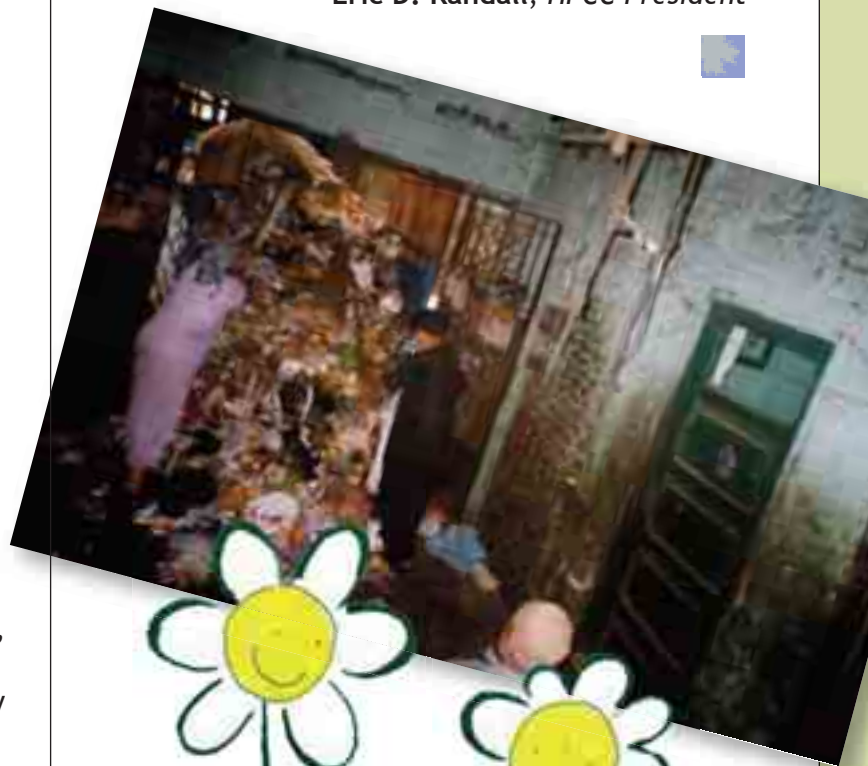
In both cases, these garbage villagers look at the small pieces of glass, plastic, etc. and are aghast that so much garbage is wasted - not recycled to its full potential. "It's like leaving money on the ground," one says. The boys on the field trip go walking down one of the city streets in utter amazement at all of the trash that gets put into the trash cans at the street corners. To them, the trash is economic opportunity that others are wasting, despite their supposedly "advanced" technology compared to what's available on the outskirts of Cairo.

That got me thinking about our neighborhood. As a homeowner who's approaching 15 year's residency in Highland Park (and as president of the Community Council), I have a certain perspective on our neighborhood - its strengths, its drawbacks, its missed opportunities, and its charm - its big city appeal and small community feel. And I suspect that many of the people I regularly rub elbows with in the neighborhood have a perspective that's roughly similar to mine. But I know that there are about 6,700 of you out there who live here, and I'd be willing to bet that there are some whose experience of, and perspective on this neighborhood is different from mine.

We need you to add your voice if we're going to be the best neighborhood council we can be.

Sometimes the most valuable thing a movie or book or community council can accomplish is to hold up the big mirror and help us to see the things we might normally miss. So consider this my invitation to you to come and check us out. We meet the third Thursday of each month (except for July and December, when we're on holiday) at 7 PM at St. Andrew's Church on Hampton Street. If you have any ideas or would like to know how you might get involved, you are welcome to contact me at boardwalk_2000@yahoo.com. You can also peruse our excellent website, which is available at www.highlandparkcc.wordpress.com, for ideas on where you can make a difference. I hope to see you soon!

Eric D. Randall, *HPCC President*





HPCC October Meeting Minutes

by *Bob Staresinic*

Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with a quorum present.

Nancy Arnold reminded everyone that there will be about **40 trees planted** on Heberton and Winterton Streets on November 5th from 8:45 to Noon. Volunteers are needed to help with the plantings.

Bruce Robison, St. Andrews Church Rector, reported on the **upcoming music festivals** in the next few months. In addition, the 14th Annual St. Andrews Lecture to celebrate the **400th Anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible** is November 11th at 8 pm at the church.

Michael Chapman from the **Obama Academy** spoke about the Middle Years and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs at the school.

Dr. Regina Holley, Democratic School Board candidate, spoke about what her goals are if she is elected to that position.


Michael Lamb, City Controller, spoke about the current financial situation for the City. The City is currently paying down debt and building surpluses, but has a large future debt. Most of the revenue comes from City residents, and the revenues are currently stagnant. He provided the annual financial report for the City.

Teri Rucker, **Children's Committee** Chair, reported that there will be a Halloween Parade around the reservoir fountain on Sunday October 30th, from 3-5 pm.

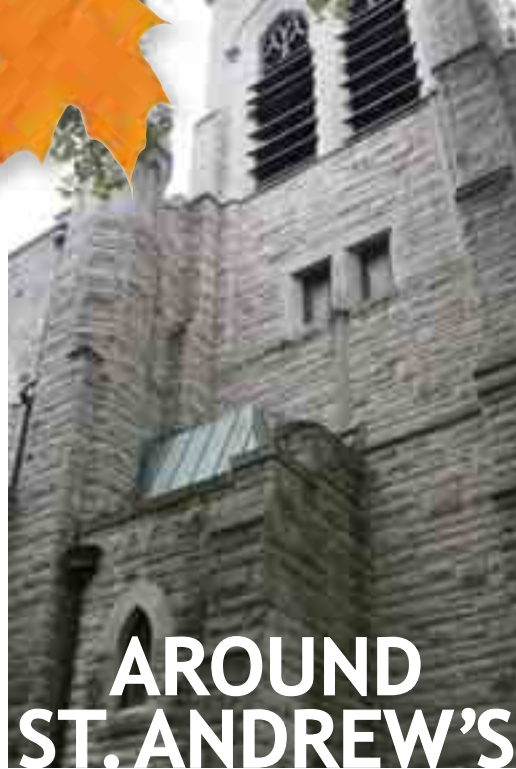
Rep. Joseph Preston Jr. briefly spoke about the water and sewer issues around Washington Blvd.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next HPCC Board meeting is Thursday, November 17th, at 7:00 pm, at St. Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton St.





The months of November and December, with the Church seasons of Advent and Christmas, and then into New Year 2012, offer a very full and rich calendar of events and services around historic St. Andrew's Church. Through it all we would wish all our great neighbors and friends here in Highland Park and in the wider community a season of abundant joy, peace, and good will - and a New Year filled with many blessings.



AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

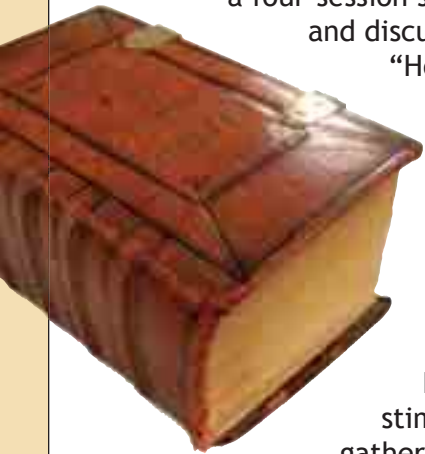
Before outlining our services for the season I would just mention that in observance of the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the English Bible, our Adult Education Program Series for this season will feature our Priest Associate, the Rev. Dr. Philip Wainwright, in a four-session series of presentations and discussions on the topic,

“How the Bible Came to be Sacred Scripture.”

All are welcome.

The programs will take place from 4 - 5:30 p.m. on Sundays November 27, December 11, January 8, and January 22.

Please join us for some stimulating and informative gatherings!



Once again this November, on Sunday the 20th, we of St. Andrew's Parish will be observing the feast of our Patron, Andrew the Apostle, with a festival service on Sunday, November 20, with our good friends of the Syria Highlanders Pipe and Drum Corps. Bagpipes will resound, beginning in the Churchyard at about 10:45, and then into the Church at 11 a.m. for a festival service. All are most welcome.

On the Eve of Thanksgiving Day, Wednesday, November 23rd, at 8 p.m., we will have a service of Holy Communion with traditional hymns of the harvest season. We receive a special offering that evening of non-perishable food, to be shared in this season with our neighbors through the East End Food Pantry. At 4:30 p.m. that afternoon the St. Andrew's Schola Cantorum will sing Choral Evensong for St. Andrew's Day, and our Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Steven McKeown, Episcopal Priest and long-time member of the Society of St. Andrew.

On Thursday evening, December 1, a service of Choral Evensong for Advent will be sung by the Parish Choir at 8 p.m., followed by a recital with the Aurelian Trio.

One of the true highlights of the season is the traditional offering of the English “Festival of Lessons and Carols,” with St. Andrew's Choir and Soloists and with readers from the wider community, beginning at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, December 18th. That event will be followed by a Holiday Reception and High Tea in the Parish Hall - and, again, all are invited.

The traditional Children's Pageant of Christmas will be presented by our Church School earlier that Sunday morning, December 18, at 11 a.m. Families who would like to have their children participate are asked to contact Church School director Liz Buchanan churchschool@standrewspgh.org ASAP. (Rehearsals begin right after Thanksgiving!)



One of the favorite community holiday events each year is the All-Ages Neighborhood Carol Sing, which is scheduled “around the bonfire” in the St. Andrew’s Churchyard beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening, December 20. Bring a flashlight! Bundle Up! We brave whatever weather finds us that evening for a half hour or so of hearty singing of familiar Christmas carols and songs, then repair to the cozier confines of the Parish Hall for cocoa and holiday cookies. This is great fun for kids - usually with multiple renditions of “Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer” - and for the whole family, and all are invited.

On Christmas Eve at St. Andrew’s, Saturday, December 24th, the always-energetic Family Communion, beginning at 4:30 p.m., includes the Blessing of the Creche and the Rector’s Family Christmas Message. The traditional candlelight, midnight service for Christmas Eve begins at 10:30 p.m., with a Service of Music, Benjamin Britten’s beloved “Ceremony of Carols,” with Choir and Sierra Pastel, harp, and with the solemn Christ Mass, beginning at about 11 p.m. A service of Holy Communion on Christmas Morning, Sunday, December 25th, at 10 a.m., will take place in the St. Andrew’s Chapel, with carols and a homily. Please note that this is the only service that Sunday morning. On Friday evening, December 31, we’ll gather at the Church at 11 p.m. for a brief musical program, a recital by our Organ Scholar, Jeremy Jelinek, followed by a simple service of Holy Communion, and then we’ll climb the tower and ring in New Year 2012 on the Great Bell.

A champagne (or non-alcoholic alternative beverage) toast to the New Year will follow in the Parish Hall.

St. Andrew’s, in the 5800 block of Hampton Street, has been at the heart of this neighborhood of Highland Park for over a century now. If you have a pastoral concern we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor who would appreciate a visit and a blessing, a family to comfort at the time of the death of a loved one - or if you simply would like to borrow a table or find some space for a family gathering too large for your living room, please feel free to give our Church Office a call at 412-661-1245 - or check us on the web, www.standrewspgh.org. We’re always glad to hear from you.



Highland Park Art & Craft Fair

By Sandy Ferguson

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. The proceeds from the auction will go to the Homeless Children's Education Fund and Animal Friends. We will have live music, holiday decorations, hot cider and much more.

The art and craft fair is new to Highland Park. So new, that I had to ask Sandy to tell us how it all got started...

I started this Art and Craft Fair last year. I am an artist and I volunteer at the Homeless Children's Education Fund. I wanted to do something to support local artist and crafters and raise some money for HCEF. Then, when I found out that people had to give up their pets because of the recession and that Animal Friends needed funds, I added them to our charities.

My husband walked in the Crop walk Sunday, October 9, 2011 to raise money to fight hunger.

Since moving to Pittsburgh, I have learned that Highland Park is a community that cares.

We moved here from Chicago six years ago. I lived in Chicago for 22 years and it never felt like home. I lived in Pittsburgh for 6 months and I never wanted to leave. Highland Park is home. The people are warm and genuine.

There are so many talented people in this area, and I believed they would be willing to help raise money for local charities and support artists.

I also wanted to help small artist and crafters. The big art and craft fairs usually charge a large fee and you have a commitment to buy tents, tables, displays, and trailers to transport your items. I wanted to give our local artist and crafters a way of showcasing their talent and at the same time support local charities and the community. At our show, we supply the tables and chairs and the artists price and sell their items - all for a fee of only \$25 and most of it goes to the charities.

This year I had dozens of people calling me to ask if we were going to have the fair again this year. Yes, we are! The Friends in Harmony have volunteered to come sing. We have a more diverse group of artist and crafters. We will have our tables decorated for the holidays; holiday music, hot cider, and a Chinese Auction that will raise money for our charities.

The Highland Park Art and Craft fair is going to be spectacular with the sounds, sights, and smells of the Holidays in Highland Park.



What Does Utility Choice Mean For You?

By State Rep. Joseph Preston Jr.

Like most people, you've probably received some mail recently encouraging you to change electric supply companies. All residents of Pennsylvania have the power to choose their electric supplier.

Let's take a closer look at exactly what utility choice means for you.

In our area, where rate caps have already expired, the number of electric suppliers offering services to residential customers has increased. In some cases, the electric supplier's rate can be as much as 10 percent less expensive than the default service price offered by the utility. Also, an electric supplier may be willing to negotiate on price or other services to entice you into switching suppliers.

There are three parts to your electric service: generation, transmission and distribution. Generation is the production of electricity. Transmission is the movement of that electricity from where it is produced to a local distribution system. Distribution is the delivery of electricity to your home or business.

When you shop for an electric supplier, you are choosing the company that generates your electricity. For most electric customers who select a new supplier, transmission costs will also be included in the charges from your new supplier. The electric utility that distributes your electricity will remain the same.

If you choose a new electric supplier, the quality, reliability and maintenance of your electric service will not change. Your current electric utility will continue to provide the same transmission and distribution service. And electric suppliers must be licensed by the Public Utility Commission to do business in Pennsylvania.

The effective date of your choice depends on your next meter read date and can take three to eight weeks.

In most cases, you should be able to receive a single monthly bill from your electric utility. However, some suppliers might want to bill you separately. In this case, you would receive two bills, one from your electric utility and one from the supplier.

I encourage you to visit the PUC website www.papowerswitch.com for a variety of helpful information on this topic.

Since 2000, Pennsylvania residential and commercial customers have had the chance to shop for lower natural gas rates. You could save as much as 30 percent on your natural gas bill.

Contact your current natural gas company for more details.

My constituent service office - 208 N. Highland Ave.; 412-361-3692 - can help you with any state-related matter. Please contact my staff if you need assistance.



State Rep. Joseph Preston Jr. serves the 24th Legislative District which comprises Aspinwall, Wilkinsburg and portions of Pittsburgh.



Animal Rescue League Supply Drive

by Joan Soulliere, Leader, Girl Scout Troop 54281

Jr. Girl Scout Troop 54281, which meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, is embarking on a journey and needs your help! The Troop is running a **Supplies Drive for the Western Pennsylvania Animal Rescue League**. For the month of November, we will be accepting donations of various supplies to help the Animal Rescue League, the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and the people who foster pets for the Animal Rescue League. Supply Drive will end on November 30th.



Starting November 2, our dark green donation laundry baskets are available to receive your donation at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Hampton Street and the Bryant St. Market on Bryant Street. *Thank you to our partners!* Our goal is to collect 365 items to help animals in need.



Why are we doing this? The girls of Troop 54281 are working toward earning their Bronze Award, the highest award for a Jr. Girl Scout. Part of earning the award is learning about how an individual and a team can "Take Action" and cause positive change in a community. The girls voted to help the Animal Rescue League. First, they met with the Director of Development, Kathy, and learned about how the Animal Rescue League seeks donations and about what kind of donations are needed. Next, the girls collected stray socks and made over 80 fluff filled cat toys.

Finally, the girls are asking for YOUR help in addressing this community need by donating the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Dog, Cat, Guinea Pig and Hamster Food | Heating Pads |
| Old towels | Non-clumping Kitty Litter |
| Leashes and Collars | Dog Crates with Plastic Bottoms (especially large) |
| Dog coats | Ceramic Cat Bowls |
| Pet Safe De-Icing Salt | Paper Towels |
| Dog and Cat toys | Hand, Dish and Original Dawn Liquid Dish Soap |
| Toilet and Paper Towel Rolls | Bleach |
| Oatmeal Boxes (empty) | Plastic/Poop Bags |
| Jars of baby food vegetables (Wildlife Rehab. Center) | Blankets |
| | Peanut Butter |

For a complete listing, please refer to their wish list: www.animalrescue.org/donation-wishlist

The Western Pennsylvania Animal Rescue League never refuses an animal. Recently, goats were dropped off. When we visited, there were a great number of cats, dogs, guinea pigs, and rabbits.

If you have an item too big for the laundry basket, please contact GirlScoutTroop54281@gmail.com and we will be happy to make arrangements for pick up. You can also drop by the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tuesdays - Fridays, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and I, the Troop Leader and Parish Secretary, will gladly accept your donation!

Please look for our posters throughout the neighborhood encouraging you to give and help the Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania. Every bag, toy, and leash translates into a bit of love!

Thank you for your generosity.
Highland Park is a place for great neighbors!



Union Project Strategic Planning Session

On Saturday, November 19th from 10-Noon at Union Project, meet UP's strategic planning team, learn more about our plan, and offer your input.

As Union Project celebrates a decade of service building community along-side thousands of community members, we are engaged in strategic planning for 2012-15. Since May 2011, our planning team has been conducting surveys, hosting focus groups, holding interviews, and gathering data to review and improve our services and facilities, facilitate new community programming, and create new strategies for making our corner a more vibrant place. Now, it's your turn to "Speak UP!" Please join us for a fun, interactive morning of community building as we vision our future together.

Bring the whole family!
UP Ceramic Studio will offer fun arts activities for kids.

Please RSVP to 412-363-4550x37 or email elly@unionproject.org.

Cafe Ola Appetite is now open at Union Project. Chef and owner Olafemi Mandley serves food creatively and passionately. Visit the Union Project during Olah's hours of operation and check them out.

Monday-Friday 8am-3pm and Saturday 8am-5pm.

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public-safety@highlandparkpa.com

Reservoir of Jazz -

Ethan Winograd (412) 352-2767

Super Playground -

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902 &
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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

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