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Happy Spring!
Highland Park is going to have an enormous amount of visitors in the beginning of May starting with The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy’s 16th Annual Spring Hat Luncheon on May 3rd. They anticipate 600 luncheon guests this year! The annual event is held in a different city park each year with the proceeds benefiting the park in which it is held. For example, the Victorian fountain in Highland Park was restored in part with proceeds from the last Hat Luncheon held in our park.

The Hat Luncheon will be immediately followed by the Pittsburgh Marathon on May 4th. Thousands of runners will be passing through our neighborhood, many experiencing Highland Park for the first time. Look for more Marathon details including the HPCC Marathon Party on Bryant Street and road closure information in this newsletter.

The following weekend, May 10th, is the Highland Park House Tour. The House Tour Committee is working hard to make sure it is a spectacular event. We are expecting visitors from all over the city who will be looking forward to enjoying the beautiful and unique architecture Highland Park is known for.

As I walked to the coffee shop this morning for our Sunday morning House Tour committee meeting, I noticed a lot of trash on N. Highland Avenue. I know the weather has just started to get warmer and everyone is just beginning to think about working outdoors, but I would like to ask all of you to take some time over the next few weeks to clean-up the street in front of your house. I would love to see Highland Park look its best for all of our guests in May and throughout the summer.

Monica Watt
HPCC President
This will be the second official community meeting on the project. If you are interested in the off-leash dog area location, you are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The HPCC March meeting was dedicated to discussing an off-leash dog area in Highland Park. Three possible locations were presented and discussed. A survey was also sent to the ListServ to ensure broader feedback from the community and those who could not attend the meeting. There are also a number of individual petitions circulating online.

All elements will be discussed at the next HPCC monthly meeting on April 17th at 7:00 p.m. at Union Project. The Grand Hall will be used by Open Door Church for Holy Thursday that evening so we will be meeting in the ceramics studio space in the lower level of Union Project.
Join us for the Bryant Street Marathon Party!

By Kelly Vitti

The sixth annual Dick’s Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon is on Sunday, May 4th. It is a day when Pittsburghers across the city wake up on Sunday morning, grab a cup of coffee and come out to cheer on runners and enjoy the race day festivities with friends and neighbors.

Join us on Bryant Street for our traditional marathon party including live music by Hill Jordan and Slide Worldwide and free coffee, orange juice and pastries! Bring your noise makers and signs and help us support the runners as they face the challenges of mile 20 of the race. Highland Park is a key location for providing encouragement and energy for runners so we need everyone to come out and cheer them on - I hope to see you there!

The maps on the next page will help you to navigate the neighborhood and city on race day.
Many mornings will be spent in the fields at the Garfield Community Farm learning about growing seasons, how to use garden tools, simple sustainable farming techniques, horticulture, and the science of growing. Multiple field trips are planned, including spending an afternoon in the kitchen learning about preserving and a full day at Lamp Post Farm experiencing rural farming and animals! Campers will also venture to Penn Ave for lunch at NaCl (Salt of the Earth), including a cooking lesson from the head chef, Chad Townsend.

In Union Project’s ceramic studio, campers will engage in the process of creating with clay, including hand-building techniques, wheel throwing, firing techniques, and glazing. Campers will create their very own functional, ceramic place settings (plate, bowl, and cup) to take home.

This unique camp will conclude with a meal, prepared by campers (with the help of a Pittsburgh chef) using vegetables they harvested from the farm, and served on the very same place settings they created in the studio. Parents and family members will be invited to share in the local feast. Each camper will take home an apron, journal, the ceramic place-setting they made, lessons from Pittsburgh chefs, and the most unique, dirty experience of the summer!

This camp runs from Monday – Friday for two weeks. Campers should be dropped off at 8:30 a.m. and be picked up at 4:30 p.m. Campers should bring a lunch each day. This camp is a partnership between Union Project and Garfield Community Farm.

Harvest and Create:

Monday, June 16- Friday, June 27
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
$550/child for a two week camp
Ages 8 - 12

The first time I heard about this summer camp last year, I wished I could sign-up myself.

During this two week summer camp, Union Project and Garfield Community Farm will introduce campers to the practices and processes of sustainable farming and creating with clay through hands-on learning.
**Backyard Artists Summer Camp:**

Monday, July 21 - Friday, August 1
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
$550/child for a two week camp
Ages 8 - 12

During this two week adventure, campers will learn about native insects, critters, and plants. They will also spend time bird watching, sculpting with clay, and building birdhouses with clay and wood. But that’s not all! They will learn to make ceramic planters, grow herbs, make a worm bin, and create a collaborative mosaic project.

Union Project is teaming up with Whole Foods Market and Enright Park Community Garden to teach gardening and cooking. The Saxifrage School is on our team to teach construction of birdhouses. Camp will also include field trips to The National Aviary and Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (the headquarters of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania). Each camper will take home an apron, journal, ceramic pots, potted herbs, and a head full of new knowledge!

This camp runs from Monday – Friday for two weeks. Campers should be dropped off at 8:30 am and be picked up at 4:30 pm. Campers should bring a lunch each day.

To register for a summer camp, go to unionproject.org.

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**Summer Puppeteers Summer Camp:**

Monday, July 7 - Friday, July 18
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
$550/child for a two week camp
Ages 8 - 12

Calling all young storytellers, actors, creators, and dreamers! This puppeteer’s camp is an experience chock-a-block full of fun and hands-on learning.

Campers will spend time dreaming up characters, writing stories, playing drama games, and creating many a puppet. Sewing, ceramics, set construction, stop motion film, and theatrics are only some of the activities your child will experience on their journey to becoming a summer puppeteer.

We are teaming up with Puppets for Pittsburgh to have a day of play with some of Pittsburgh’s native giant puppets. Throughout the two week session, campers will create characters, puppets, and a stage for a culminating, collaborative puppet show! Family and friends are invited to a grand final presentation of campers’ creations and stories. Each camper will take home an apron, journal, their puppet creations, and so many stories!

This camp runs from Monday - Friday for two weeks. Campers should be dropped off at 8:30 a.m. and be picked up at 4:30 p.m. Campers should bring a lunch each day.

To register for a summer camp, go to unionproject.org.
Onions. Red, white, yellow, sweet, green, shallot, leek - anything in the onion family is ready to go in the ground (some of mine went to seed last year and I have about seven onions in the garden right now over 6” high!). Most folks plant onions by set (they look like miniature onions). I grow from seed, so I’m not sure where the best local spot to get the sets would be. Just ask your favorite local grower, nursery, grocer, etc. I’ve seen them at the box stores, as well as at produce places in the Strip, so they are out there.

Just one note of caution: if you already have, or plan to grow, beds of beans, peas, sage or asparagus, plant your onions away from those spots. They don’t “get along” very well, and will inhibit each other’s growth.

Spinach (and other greens). Seeds are available through seed catalogs, some local folks and in all the local stores that have garden centers. Find a sunny little spot in your yard, toss some seed, cover them lightly with soil, water them and in just a few weeks, voila! Fresh greens for your salads/sandwiches/pasta dishes!

Remember: don’t harvest the whole plant, but just a few leaves from a variety of plants. This will give you a longer-lasting, and bigger, harvest.

Spring Fever
and Your Garden
By Rachel Kudrick

Yeah. It’s April. The winter was long and cold and made us all a little stir crazy. And now we’ve had some days in the 50-70 degree range, but it’s way too early in the season for planting tomatoes, peppers and basil! If you need to scratch that gardening itch, and you have a hankering for some fresh foods, here are a few simple, yummy things that you can plant right now!
• **Potatoes.** (Not to be confused with sweet potatoes, which are a warm-weather crop.) If you’re tempted to use those store-bought varieties, just remember that you don’t really know much about them: what variety are they, do they have any disease resistance, etc. You can purchase seed potatoes at local garden centers. If you do decide to plant full-size potatoes, cut them into quarters, making sure each section has no more than 3 eyes. Set those sections out in the sun for a couple days until the eyes begin to sprout. Plant ‘em up!

Feeling left out because you just don’t have a big yard? You really don’t need a lot of space to garden. All of these plants can be grown in containers (potatoes obviously need a larger container, but can also be grown inside tires, laundry baskets, wooden crates and so much more!) But, if you are growing in the ground, make sure that your soil has lots of good organic material: compost, humus, mushroom manure, etc. Our local native soil is mostly clay, so be prepared to put some effort into it, especially the first time you garden.

Also: this list of plants is by no means exhaustive. There are tons of cool-weather crops that you could put in the garden now or within the next couple weeks. And your possibilities only expand if you have a way to cover things up, keep them indoors, or provide them with a little extra heat.

Good luck, and good eats!

• **Strawberries.**
  You can get “June-bearing,” (one harvest per season), “ever-bearing,” (two main harvests per season - early and late - with a few berries produced throughout the rest of the year) and “day neutral” (constant production throughout the season). Since strawberries reproduce by runner, check with friends and neighbors to see if they have a strawberry patch and would be willing to let you “adopt” a few of their babies.

• **Peas.** Snow or snap, now’s the time to get them in the ground. Find seeds where garden supplies are sold. (No, if you plant the ones in the freezer, they won’t grow. I tried that when I was five. I’m still disappointed.) Since most of them are about 45 - 65 days to harvest, you will be popping those sweet, crispy pods into your mouth by early June. Imagine the look on your neighbor’s face when he’s transplanting his eggplant and you’re harvesting your bounty!
“Spring has sprung,” as Pogo used to say: the Bucs are playing ball, the inevitable “orange cones” of summer are beginning to appear around the region, and we move on in the Church Calendar through the last weeks of the rich season of Lent on to the good news of a sunny Easter. And with all best wishes for a great spring to all in our great neighborhood!

Our buildings and grounds continue to be in a bit of a jumble, with the year-long project of renewal and new construction drawing to an end (we pray) early this summer. In the meantime many of our usual spring activities are happening elsewhere, or in different ways. Services, of course, and a few special musical events continue to to brighten the pages of the calendar.

The Maundy Thursday service in Holy Week, on April 17, will be 7 p.m., in the Church - as we won’t be able to have our traditional service and potluck supper in Brooks Hall this year.

The Great Three Hours of Good Friday, April 18, will begin with Stations of the Cross at noon, the Liturgy for Good Friday at 1 p.m., and at 2 p.m. a Service of Music offered by St. Andrew’s Parish Choir and Chamber ensemble. At 3 p.m. the Great Bell of St. Andrew’s Church will be tolled 33 times, to acknowledge the traditional number of years in our Lord’s earthly life.

Easter morning festival services on Sunday, April 20, will be at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. All are most welcome and warmly invited. A champagne reception will follow each service and a fun...
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Happy Easter!
Check Us Out!
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