

November 2017

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

A Letter from the President

Hello Neighbors!

On behalf of the HPCC Board, I'd like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous start to the holiday season. I'm deeply thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve as HPCC President and for the tireless efforts of our board members, volunteers and neighbors for making Highland Park the welcoming, vibrant and inclusive community that we share with one another.

The holiday season is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the warmth of family and community and I hope that you are able to spend your holidays surrounded by family and friends.

The holiday season is also customarily a time to consider giving back. One great way to lend a hand as the weather turns colder is by helping a neighbor maintain their sidewalk when it snows. Uncleared snow and ice can be hazardous for members of our community who are elderly or disabled, as well as other pedestrians, postal workers and first responders. The City of Pittsburgh's Snow Angels program matches volunteer snow shovelers with elderly neighbors or those with disabilities who are in need of help with snow removal. [More information about volunteering or to sign up to receive help maintaining your sidewalk this winter is available here.](#)



Another way that you can give back to the community this time of year is renewing your HPCC membership or becoming a member if you aren't one already. Your tax-deductible contribution enables us to organize events, host community conversations, and advocate for neighborhood issues. If you're interested in joining or renewing, or in making an additional donation to the HPCC, you can do so at hpccpgh.org.

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!

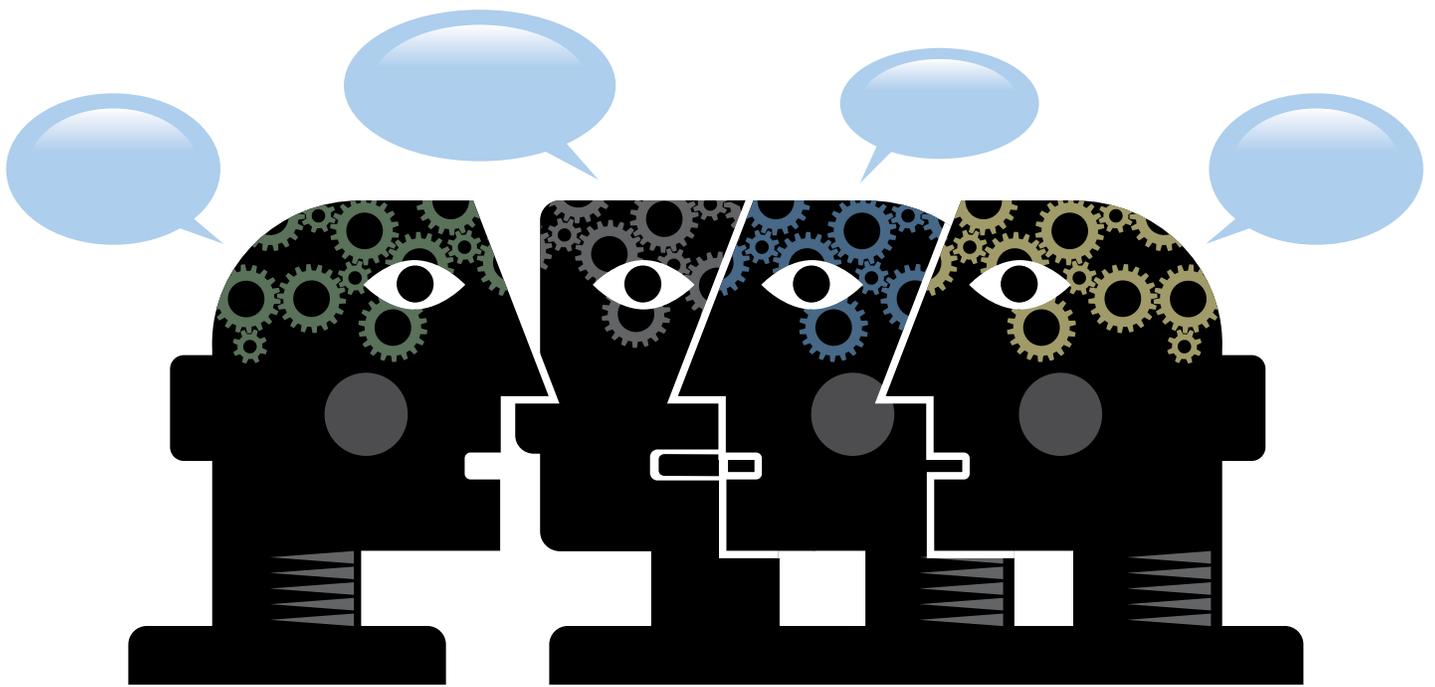
Join or Renew Today!



As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to get involved in any of our activities, please email me at jacob.pawlak@gmail.com or call me at 412-478-7769. The HPCC does not meet in December due to the holidays, so our next Community Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th.

Once again, Happy Thanksgiving, and Happy Holidays!

Jake Pawlak
HPCC President



HPCC October Meeting Minutes

October Meeting convened at 7:30

Zone 5 Officer reported an increase in car break-ins in the area and advised neighbors to double check that their doors are locked and to place any valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk.

Justin Miller from the City Department of Mobility and Infrastructure and Breen Masciotra and Amy Silbermann from the Port Authority of Allegheny County presented on developments in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) plan and asked community input on changes to the end of the route.

BRT project was launched to focus on developing solutions for the public transit system through the Oakland corridor. Oakland is a major job center for the area, but buses and riders experience overcrowding and congestion in this area with too many stops too close together causing buses to bunch.

The BRT would incorporate dedicated bus lanes and traffic signal priority for buses to help traffic flow. Stop optimization would work to reduce the number of stops, while making the stops more robust. Adding curb cuts and crossway upgrades making safer to reach these stations.

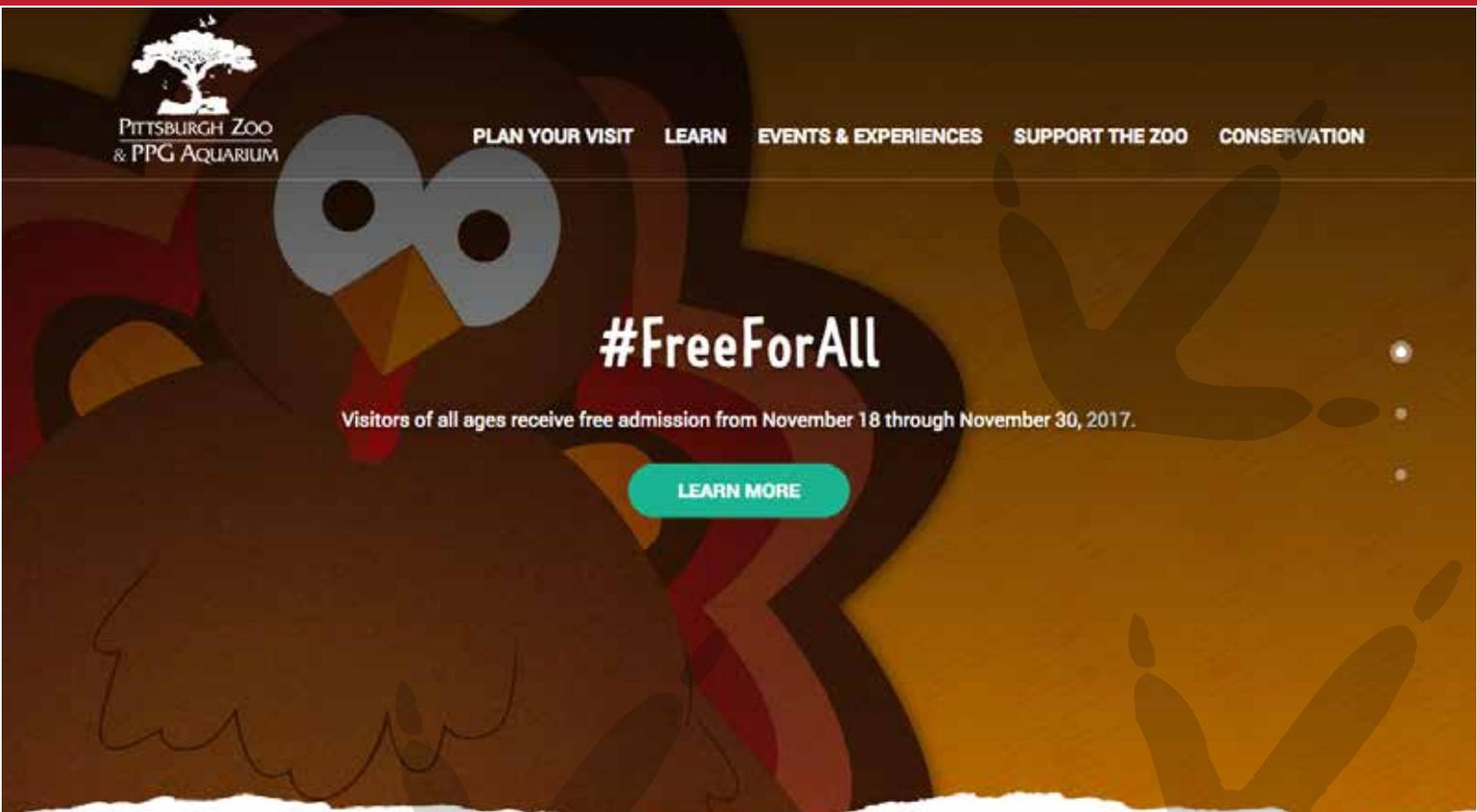
Initial community meetings overwhelmingly supported the branch system concept to include Highland Park.

Where will the BRT go in Highland Park? There are three viable options.

- A. Follow the current routes
- B. Buses continue to the top of Highland, follow a small loop in the neighborhood to return to Highland Avenue and continue to serve Bryant Street
- C. Buses end at the top of Highland avenue, turn around on Mellon Terrace and return to the top of Highland.

Answering questions from concerned community members, representatives for the BRT project explained that travel time between Highland Park and downtown would be reduced, the 71B would run more frequently, while there could be some reduction in frequency for the 71A. BRT will also incorporate some electric vehicles into the plan to reduce air and noise pollution in the neighborhood.

Community members had additional concerns regarding where buses would layover, how changes to the routes could impact parking in the neighborhood and traffic at the corner of Bunker Hill and Mellon. It was determined that there would be one more community meeting to address these concerns.



#FreeForAll

Visitors of all ages receive free admission from November 18 through November 30, 2017.

LEARN MORE

FREE

ADMISSION TO THE PITTSBURGH ZOO

Visitors of all ages will receive free admission from November 18 through November 30, 2017* as a thank-you for the support given throughout the year.

**The Zoo will be closed on November 23, 2017 for the Thanksgiving holiday.*

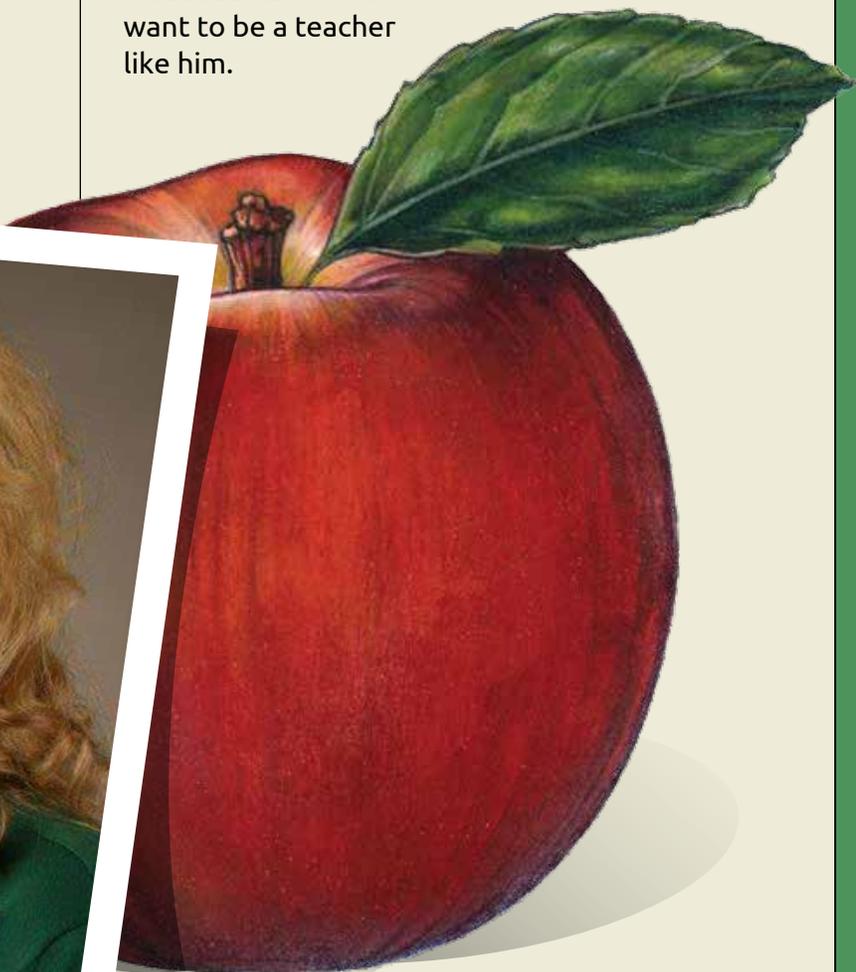
A CONVERSATION WITH KAREN ARNOLD, PRINCIPAL AT PITTSBURGH FULTON

By Shannon Botts, Parent and Highland Parker

Pittsburgh Fulton PreK-5 is a neighborhood school located in Highland Park. The instructional program is based on the District's comprehensive curriculum. Fulton offers a unique blending of a structured, traditional neighborhood setting with a French-emphasis Magnet program that promotes the study of French culture and the study of French in various countries of the world.

WHY DID YOU GET INTO EDUCATION?

My 3rd and 5th grade teachers. My 3rd grade teacher was, in my eyes, "mean." She yelled and screamed and never wanted to hear our side of the story. My 5th grade teacher was strict, but he listened to us and built relationships with all of his students. He made me want to be a teacher like him.



HOW HAS YOUR TEACHING EXPERIENCE MADE YOU A BETTER PRINCIPAL?

I have 15 years' experience in the classroom. I was a high school English teacher, working with kids at the end of their K-12 education. Now, working with students at the beginning of their education, I know how to help them succeed as they move through their school lives.

WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY AS A PRINCIPAL?

ALL KIDS CAN LEARN! Very simple and very true. It's our job to let all kids know that they can succeed.

PPS administrators had to take the Strength Finders survey this summer and my strengths were Positivity, WOO, Empathy, Responsibility and Communication. This is me in a nutshell. I always look for the positive in any situation and I think that I can put myself in all of our stakeholders' shoes:

Teacher – I taught for 15 years.

Student – Graduate of PPS and I'm a life-long learner, so I'm still a student

Parent – My husband and I are PPS parents to our kids Jeffrey, graduate of Brashear High School, and Alexandra, a junior at CAPA.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHARE ABOUT FULTON?

I'm proud to say that this year we grew in all tested grades and subject areas for the PSSA.

We have a number of great programs and partnerships, including:

- French emphasis for neighborhood and magnet students
- Drumming and after school program through East End Cooperative Ministries
- Before- and after-school care for students
- Monthly field trips and events as an incentive for positive behavior:

The Pittsburgh Zoo
Pittsburgh Indoor Sports Arena
Carnegie Science Center
Pajama days and more

In my four years as principal, I have only had to hire two teachers. Every other teacher has at least 5 years of experience at the school.

Fulton has all of the pieces to make it stand out in PPS and the state: kids who work hard, engaged staff and parents, and community support.

One of my strengths, WOO, means "Win Others Over." Come to Pittsburgh Fulton and let us WOO you!



2017 Highland Park Pottery Tour

The sixth annual Highland Park Pottery Tour is **Saturday and Sunday, December 9-10, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** During the tour the public is invited to visit the homes of five Highland Park potters and the Union Project Ceramics Co-op for refreshments and to view and purchase handmade pottery by local artists.

Featuring the work of: *Joseph Delphia, Stephanie Flom, Jeff Guerrero, Keith Hershberger, Jenna Vanden Brink, the Union Project Ceramics Co-op and others.*

A map of pottery tour locations is below.



- | | |
|---|--|
|  5505 Avondale Pl
Joseph Delphia |  5511 Avondale Pl
Keith Hershberger |
|  6342 Jackson St
Stephanie Flom |  5800 Wellesley Ave
Jenna Vanden Brink |
|  716 N. Sheridan Ave
Apt 2
Jeff Guerrero |  801 N. Negley Ave
Union Project |



Destination Highland Park

Atomic Celt Bladeworks



With the holidays approaching, carving and chopping may take on greater importance as you prepare family feasts. Highland Park neighbor Dan Thompson provides a unique service that few others in the region do - knife sharpening. As an added bonus, he will pick up and deliver your knives for free if you live in Highland Park.

Atomic Celt Bladeworks was born in Thompson's garage on Jackson Street in 2014 when friend and neighbor Olga Watkins commissioned him to create a knife. The following year, another friend asked him to sharpen some knives. Thompson, an Eagle Scout, grew up on a farm in North Carolina and had experience sharpening farm tools. After helping his friend, he sent out an offer on the Highland Park ListServ and was overwhelmed by knife-sharpening requests from 60-70 people.

The knife sharpening, coupled with the need to replace his outdoor knives destroyed in a Texas tornado, led Thompson to develop knife-making skills. He now creates 5-8 custom new knives by hand each month for a wide array of clients. The knives include individual knives, sets, sushi sets, outdoor knives, and more. Thompson estimates he has made over 200 knives.

Local chefs have commissioned Thompson for custom knives. The finishing and woodworking takes place in shared space with Bandy Woodworks in Homewood. Knife handles are customized with inlay and other creative processes to a stunning finish.



A self-taught knife-maker, Thompson takes pride in his craft and hopes his knives will be used and cherished.

“ I hope the knives are passed down to kids and grandkids and I hope that they work as well in 100 years as they do today, ”

he says.

Thompson and his wife, Rebecca Maclean, have lived in Highland Park since 2008 along with their children. They came to the neighborhood for the house, of which they are only the third owner. It was built by a mason and includes the ultimate basement speakeasy-like man cave with massive stone hearths.

Thompson is a Duke-educated former financial planner who took breaks from writing his masters thesis by watching knife-making videos. The breaks replaced graduate school and led to Atomic Celt Bladeworks. In addition to making and sharpening knives, Thompson also makes swords for common fencing and sharpens a wide variety of products - garden sheers, scissors, rotary lawn mower blades and more.



When asked what he enjoys about his new vocation, Thompson responds “No boss, although I am a harsher taskmaster than anyone else.” He dreams of opening a knife-making school and has begun discussions with a few other knife-makers in town for such an endeavor.

The name “Atomic Celt Bladeworks” gives a nod to Thompson’s Irish descent and penchant for “righteous anger at injustice”.

Turnaround time for the knife sharpening service is generally 24 hours. New handmade knives can take from 4 to 12 weeks, depending on the level of customization. For additional information, contact Thompson at 412-608-7822 or AtomicCelt@gmail.com.

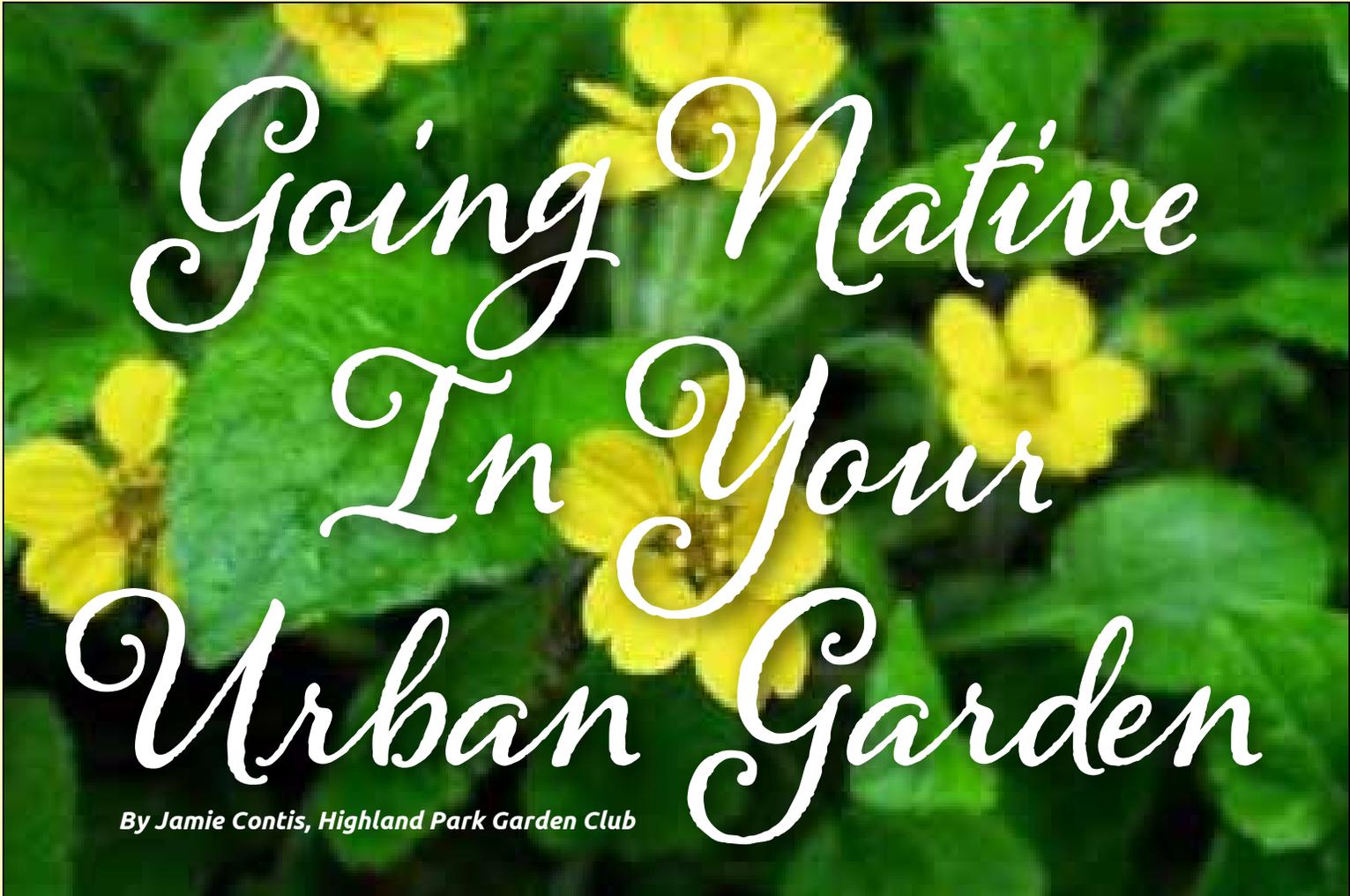


ATOMIC CELT BLADEWORKS

www.facebook.com/atomicceltbladeworks

@atomiccelt (Instagram)

www.atomiccelt.com



Going Native In Your Urban Garden

By Jamie Contis, Highland Park Garden Club

Information for this article was obtained from the Penn State University Master Gardener Program.

Gardeners are discovering the beauty and benefits of planting native plants in their gardens. Native plants have adapted to our climate and soil conditions so they are often easier to grow and are less susceptible to diseases and insects faced by non-native plants. They also provide food and shelter for wildlife, especially birds, butterflies, bees and the insects they depend upon.

Pennsylvania currently has more than 800 plant and animal species listed as rare, threatened or endangered. Each of us can help by adding native plants to an existing garden or creating a new native only garden.

Below is a list of a few of the more popular native plants for our area. Please do not dig these plants out of the wild, but rather start from seed or purchase seedlings from a nursery you trust.

Beebalm or bergamot (*monarda*) is a great pollinator plant. Hummingbirds and butterflies love it, deer and rabbits typically don't. It is member of the mint family and has fragrant leaves which were used for medicinal purposes by Native Americans. It prefers a moist soil and is prone to powdery mildew so good air circulation is essential. Beebalm spreads easily so dividing every 2 - 3 years is very helpful.

Boneset, or *eupatorium perfoliatum*, is an important white blooming wildflower that blooms mid-July. It is one of the best plants for attracting beneficial insects such as the sand wasp, which is a stink bug predator.

Button bush, or *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, likes moist soils and can tolerate occasional flooding so it is well suited for the center of a rain garden. It has a unique white pollinator flower. Beware though, deer prefer this plant so take care as to where you plant it.

Turtlehead, or *Chelone glabra*, has creamy white flowers, attracts bumblebees and is good for the center of a rain garden because it requires moist soil.

Dogwoods. There are 30 - 60 species to dogwoods in North America. Popular species native to our location are *cornus florida*, which is a tree with gorgeous white flowers and *cornus amomum* which is a shrub type dogwood that grows up to 15' tall. During the winter the *cornus amomum* has red stems that add interest to the winter garden.

Bottle gentian or *Gentian andrewsii* blooms in the fall and is also good for the center of a rain garden. Bumblebees are the primary pollinator.

Inkberry, or *Ilex glabra*, is a type of holly that is a good alternative to boxwood, which is difficult to grow now because of boxwood blight. It has smooth leaves, grows 3' to 6' tall, grows berries that birds love, has nectar filled flowers which are great for pollinators and is evergreen. If you can get to the branches before the birds they make a nice decoration fall through spring. Like most hollies you need a male plant to pollinate one or more female plants.

Milkweed is loved by monarch butterflies and avoided by deer. Two types are recommended for home gardens; *incornota* or swamp and *tuberosa* or *butterflyweed*. Swamp milkweed has a light vanilla fragrance and needs moist, full sun; butterflyweed has no scent and prefers dry, full sun. Common milkweed is not commonly cultivated as it is seen as too aggressive for gardens.

Mountain Mint, or *pycnanthemum muticum*, is a versatile plant that can be used in herb gardens, butterfly gardens and as border plants. It is less aggressive than peppermint and can be contained by cutting roots with a spade in the spring or dividing and sharing with friends. The aromatic leaves can also be used to make a mild tea. It can be grown in full sun or part shade.

Wild geranium or *geranium maculata* blooms in May and is an important early source of nectar. It is a flowering ground cover so interplant with later flowering flowers that will shine when the foliage gets ragged.

The Highland Park Garden Club meets monthly in Highland Park. If you are interested in joining or attending a meeting please email jcontis@gmail.com.



Roasted Vegetables - The Perfect Fall Side Dish

Courtesy of Cooking Light

A mix of colorful root vegetables makes an attractive side dish. Here is a simple recipe you can try this Thanksgiving.

Timesaver: Peeled, prechopped butternut squash saves time, but if you want to cut it yourself and are not sure how, check out the full video of the recipe here:

www.cookinglight.com/recipes/sheet-pan-roasted-vegetables



Ingredients

3 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons whole-grain mustard
1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar, divided
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 pound peeled cubed butternut squash (about 3 cups)
1 pound parsnips, peeled and cut into 1-in. pieces (about 2 1/4 cups)
1 pound Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved
8 ounces small Yukon Gold potatoes, halved
Cooking spray

How to Make It

Step 1

Preheat oven to 450°F.

Step 2

Combine oil, mustard, thyme, 2 teaspoons vinegar, salt, and pepper in a bowl, stirring with a whisk. Combine butternut squash, parsnips, brussels sprouts, and potatoes in a large bowl. Add mustard mixture to squash mixture; toss to coat evenly.

Step 3

Spread vegetable mixture in a single layer on a foil-lined baking sheet coated with cooking spray. You don't have to line the baking sheet, but it does make clean-up easier. Bake at 450°F for 35 minutes or until browned and tender, stirring gently with a spatula after 25 minutes for even browning. Remove pan from oven. Drizzle with remaining 1 teaspoon vinegar; toss and serve in a bowl or on a platter.

November and December, as we sail from Fall to Winter and from Old Year to New and in the Church, toward Advent and Christmas--and through it all we would wish all our neighbors a season of blessing and renewal, healing and mercy, hope and joy.

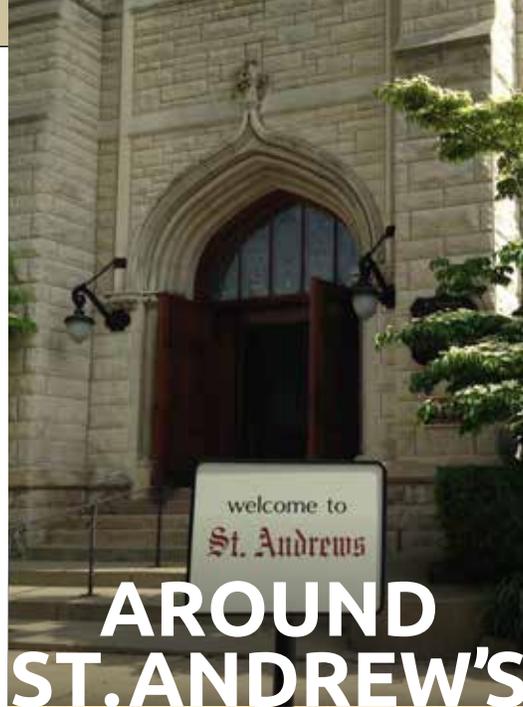
The four weeks of Advent are certainly rich around the St. Andrew's parish scatter. All are invited to what will be a lovely service of Choral Evensong for Advent, on Thursday evening, December 7 at 8 p.m. We are delighted to welcome our good friend and former Associate Organist, Ethan LaPlaca, who will be in recital following the service. Ethan is Director of Music at Mt. Lebanon High School and has recently been appointed Organist and Choirmaster of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill.

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, will be a wonderful day as well. At 11 a.m. our service will be given over to the great tradition, "A Children's Pageant of Christmas." If your kids would like to participate this year, please send our Church School Director, Brandon Cooper, a quick e-mail at churchschool@standrewspgh.org as soon as you can.

At 4:30 p.m. on the afternoon of the 17th the day continues with what has become truly one of the highlights of the season, as St. Andrew's Parish Choir and Schola Cantorum join forces with readers from the parish and the wider neighborhood for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. All welcome--and if past experience is a guide, be sure to get here early for a good seat!

On Sunday morning, December 24, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we will have a single service of the Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

We will have two services on Christmas Eve, beginning in the afternoon of Sunday,



By Bruce Robison, Rector

December 24, with the 4:30 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion--to include the Blessing of the Creche, familiar carols and a Children's Sermon. The Traditional Midnight Christmas Service begins by candlelight at 10:30 p.m. with Service of Music for harp, organ and Choir, featuring the Benjamin Britten Ceremony of Carols, with guest-artist Sierra Pastel and then with the Holy Communion following at about 11 p.m.

For those who prefer a quieter service, or who don't care to venture out at night, a Christmas Morning service of Holy Communion will take place in

the Chapel at 10 a.m. on Monday morning, December 25, with a capella carols, followed by a Christmas Morning Coffee Hour.

St. Andrew's, in the 5800 block of Hampton Street, has been in ministry in the heart of this neighborhood of Highland Park for over a century. 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, please feel free, whatever your religious background or heritage may be, to give our Church Office a call at 412 661-1245--or to check us out on the web, standrewspgh.org. We're always glad to hear from you and to help if we can.



KITCHEN NOW OPEN!



5308 BUTLER ST. PITTSBURGH, PA
MONDAY-THURSDAY 4-11PM, FRIDAY 4-12PM,
SATURDAY 12AM-12PM

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Education – Dave Atkinson

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Finance – Glen Schultz

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OLEA – Todd Shirley

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Super Playground – Monica Watt (412) 980-4208

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Welcoming – Todd Shirley

Zoning – Jake Pawlak



SHORT FILM ABOUT HIGHLAND PARK

[View it here.](#)



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CURB APPEAL

MAKE NEEDED REPAIRS - cosmetic & other

DE-CLUTTER

DE-PERSONALIZE

NEUTRALIZE with warm paint colors

GET NATURAL LIGHT in

SCALE DOWN furniture



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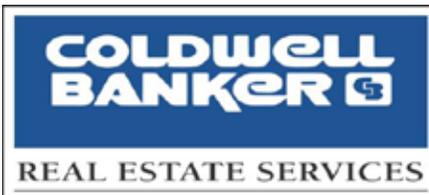
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