

February 2013

# Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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# A Letter from the President

After all of the excitement during the holidays, I thought it would be a good idea to take a look at 2012's crime statistics for Highland Park in hopes of putting December's spree in perspective and possibly calming any fears that might have arisen in the community.

I did not actually know what I would discover because I have not reviewed such statistics for some time. When we first bought our home in 1997, a good friend of ours was in charge of the Community Oriented Police. He basically said the worst problems we faced were prostitutes in the park and stolen bikes.

A lot has changed since then... Home Depot replaced a large empty Sears building and parking lot, the East Side/Whole Foods and Bakery Square redevelopments have a strong foothold, Union Project is making its mark, the park entrance was restored, the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary was given a facelift, and more recently, the business district on Bryant Street in the heart of our neighborhood has come to life. These events, along with many others, have all increased the quality of life in our little corner of the world. We have watched our home values rise and our neighborhood flourish.

Unfortunately, all of this success is also appealing to a certain criminal element.

As you will see on next page, there were 10 burglaries and 2 robberies in December. The police suspect that most of them were committed by one person. He is a young Ukrainian man who had a drug problem. He has officially been charged with three of the burglaries - one in Morningside and two in Highland Park. The others are still under investigation. Many of them are similar in nature, which is why they think he committed them, but they still have to prove it. Knowing it was one person does not lessen the negative impact he has had on many of our neighbor's lives, but I found some comfort in it.

In reviewing the statistics, I realized that I did not know the difference between a burglary, a robbery and a theft. The following descriptions are from the state Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) handbook. Simply put, a robbery is identified as the victim being present and threatened; a burglary is without the victim present. I was surprised to learn that the term "home invasion" is a modern term and not used in any official context.



## Robbery

Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

## Burglary

The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft.

## Theft (Larceny)

The unlawful taking or stealing of property or articles of value without use of force, violence or fraud. It includes shoplifting, pick-pocketing, purse-snatching, thefts from auto, theft of auto parts, bicycles, etc.

	Robbery	Burglary	Theft
January	1	6	8
February	0	7	7
March	0	3	9
April	0	3	9
May	1	3	5
June	0	1	9
July	0	1	3
August	1	3	4
September	1	4	8
October	0	7	5
November	2	3	4
December	2	10	6
2012 Total	8	51	77
2011 Total	10	32	105
2010 Total	21	27	137

To keep us better informed about crime in the neighborhood moving forward, Lynn Burns, the HPCC Safety Committee chair, will send statistics out to the ListServ monthly. If for any reason things pick-up in any category, we will send them out more often with alerts.

The HPCC ListServ remains the best way to stay in touch with each other. Even though everything is back to normal, we should always stay alert. If you see something suspicious, call 911 and then send an email to the ListServ. Your efforts will be appreciated by all of your neighbors.

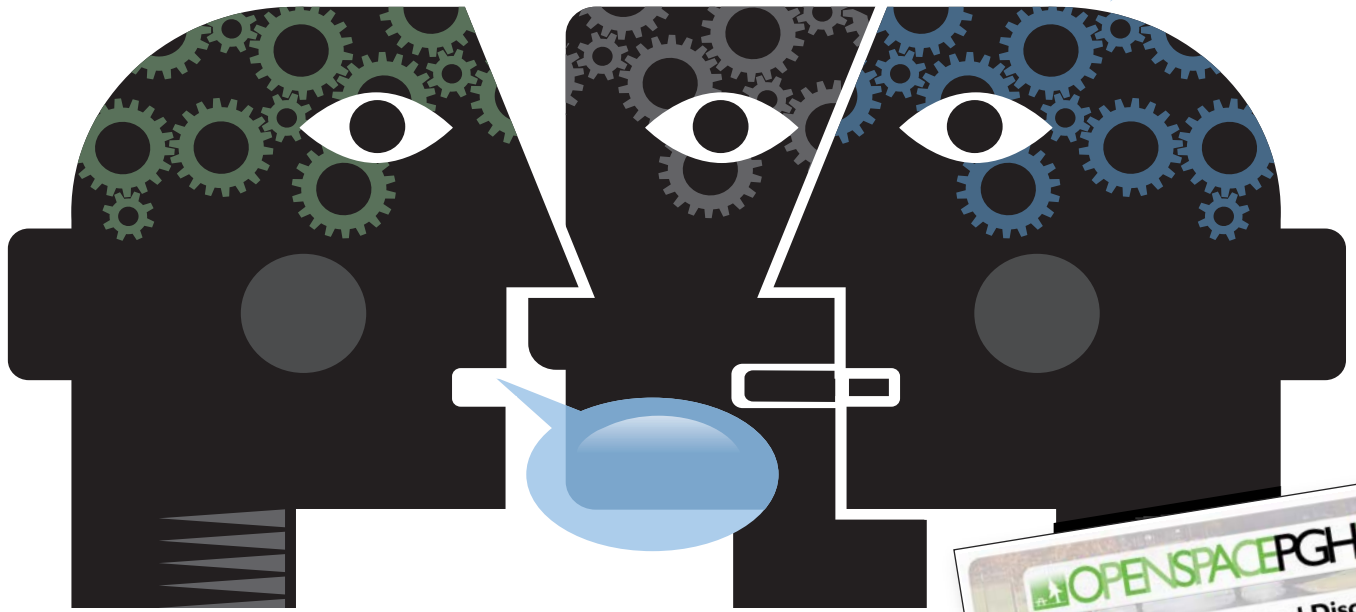
Sgt. Mike Pillit spoke at the January HPCC meeting and offered the following suggestions to help keep your home safe. Most of them are obvious.

A few are not.

- Keep your doors and windows locked. Deadbolts on back and basement doors are suggested.
- Use glass block windows in the basement. They not only add security, they also improve a home's insulation.
- Keep any shrubs and trees close to the home trimmed as they make a good place to hide.
- Keep your porch lights on all night. Exterior motion detector lighting is very effective.
- If you have sliding doors, use a lock bar to secure them.
- Alarms and dogs make for good deterrents. A criminal is going to look for the easy target.
- Stop your mail and newspapers if you are not going to be home.
- Ask your neighbor to keep an eye on things and offer to return the favor.
- Take your cell phone to bed with you. All a criminal has to do is cut the phone line or simply take one of the receivers off the hook to disable a home phone.
- Hide your valuables if you don't need to use them every day. A criminal wants to get in and out as fast as possible.
- Hide-a-key holders are easy to identify. If you need to hide a key, hide it in the garage or in the back of the home.

My sincere thanks to the Zone 5 police for their ongoing efforts to keep our community safe. I would like to give a special shout out to Commander O'Connor, whose dedication to his job is unparalleled. He was so concerned about the rash of burglaries that he rushed back to Highland Park (immediately after completing three months of special training in Virginia) to help the ongoing efforts to capture the suspect. Once he was captured, the commander immediately called me so I could send an email out to the ListServ and inform the neighborhood.

The credit for the actual capture goes to K9 officer Craig Lear's canine partner Raicor. He chased the suspect down from Morningside to Highland Park and held him until officers could arrest him. Needless to say, the dog is currently up for officer of the month.



# HPCC January Meeting Minutes

Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with a quorum present.

Commander O'Connor spoke about the recent burglaries that have occurred over the past few weeks. They have apprehended a suspect in about 12 incidents. He reminded all to keep an eye out for suspicious activity and to call 911 to report any crimes. Sgt. Mike Pillit spoke about tips for avoiding burglaries.

Richard Antonino, Karen Foltz and Phil Long from Vox Energy spoke about residential solar energy, how it works and the costs and savings associated with it.

The next HPCC meeting is 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at St. Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton Street.

Andrew Dash, Senior Planner, City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, will

present the OPENSAPCEPGH plan. It is Pittsburgh's first comprehensive guide to the optimal use of its vacant, green, and recreational spaces over the next 25 years. It is a component of PLANPGH, the City's first ever comprehensive long range plan.

OPENSAPCEPGH assesses the City's entire parks system and makes recommendations as to where parks should be located and what levels of investment are planned for individual parks & facilities throughout its neighborhoods. The plan also looks at how we can best utilize our hillsides and vacant properties to improve the quality of life for the City and its residents.



# The Nuin Center

*Courtesy of the Nuin Center*

Formerly part of the Mellon Estate, 5655 Bryant Street became the Nuin Center when owner Cathy Raphael was inspired to establish her practice in Pittsburgh. Drawn to the unique historical building and beautiful location in Highland Park, she found the Nuin Center would be easily accessible to a multitude of neighborhoods and had great potential as a home for others who were skilled in natural ways of healing and well being.

Since opening its doors in January of 1996, the Nuin Center's founding and still prevailing "intent was a center that would focus on love, light, laughter, and community."

As a longtime playshop facilitator, Cathy brings out the vitality and joy in people through the exploration of their inner child and wellspring of creativity. Having created numerous playshops for teachers, physicians, social workers, and more, she has also pursued numerous opportunities to serve an assortment of foundations with eagerness and delight.

Like Cathy, many diverse and dynamic healers have found a welcoming home in the warm, tranquil atmosphere of the Nuin Center. The practitioners of the Nuin Center have helped countless find greater awareness and rediscover love, wonder, and beauty in their lives, with expertise ranging from acupuncture, massage therapy, counseling, and chiropractic medicine to psychotherapy, reflexology, Ayurveda, and much more.

While these healing modalities may sound foreign to some, many stem from the wisdom of the most luminous ancient cultures and are united in their holistic approach of "re-establishing and maintaining balance in all areas of bodies, minds, and spirit." In such a way, they work "with the whole

person, [in a] non-invasive [way], [that even] can be used in conjunction with traditional medical treatment for improved results." In this light, alternative healing is centered around empowering the individual to focus not just on the symptoms of their illness, but also on correcting the root causes of their distress and pain. In such a way, one can once again take charge of any circumstances and once again flourish.

As Manager Heather Kropf tells, "What I love about our Center is the diversity of healing modes, and the dedication and expertise with which they are presented. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience in the people who practice here, and it's a treasure worth exploring."

In addition to their many offices, the spacious two-stories of the Nuin Center house a large conference room where community events, workshops, seminars, and social events take place. Accommodating up to 100 people, the room has held World Peace Mediations to Tibetan monk speakers, and much more.

As we face each challenge, setback, heartbreak, grievance, and fear on this tumultuous and beautiful journey of life - the courage, strength, and growth we can find amidst these experiences can lead us to build greater versions of ourselves and draw closer to our truest dreams. Whether it is to celebrate and strengthen positives, or in seeking guidance and help, it is hard to find a community more dedicated, understanding, and compassionate than at the Nuin Center.

For more information on monthly events and services the Nuin Center provides, as well as a list of the various practitioners at the Nuin Center, please visit [www.nuincenter.com](http://www.nuincenter.com).



**W**e celebrated Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday the 13th, the traditional opening of the season of Lent.

Our Third Sunday Afternoon service of Choral Evensong will be Sunday, February 17, at 4:30 p.m. The service is sung by St. Andrew's Schola Cantorum, and our Guest Preacher this month will be the Rev. Dr. Randall Bush, Senior Pastor of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

Looking ahead to early March, our "First Thursday evening" service of Choral Evensong will be on Thursday, March 7, at 8 p.m., with recital by Henry Spinelli, piano.

Lent is traditionally a season marked by renewed and intensified devotion and discipline. During these weeks we of St. Andrew's will be participating with other East End Episcopal Church congregations in a Tuesday evening, 7 p.m. series of Lenten Services, with a simple supper preceding each service at 6 p.m. Please call the St. Andrew's Church Office for the weekly schedule.



## AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

*By Bruce Robison, Rector*

St. Andrew's will also be sponsoring a 3-session, Sunday afternoon program led by our Priest-Associate, the Rev. Dr. Philip Wainwright, exploring the diversity of devotional, liturgical, and theological perspectives within the wider family of Anglicanism.

This is also a season when we begin Confirmation preparation for youth (6th grade and above) and adults, in anticipation of our bishop's visit later this spring. If you're interested in learning more, please give us a call.

St. Andrew's is located at 5801 Hampton Street, corner of

Hampton and N. Euclid, and for a century "at the center" of our Highland Park neighborhood. If there are any pastoral needs we can be of assistance with - a child to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor to visit, a family to support at the time of a death - please feel freely invited to give us a call. Our offices are open Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., our website is [www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org), and our phone number is (412) 661-1245. You can "Like" our page on Facebook, too: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park.



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
5801 Hampton Street  
Highland Park  
Pittsburgh  
412-661-1245  
[www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org)

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

### Sunday Morning Services

9 a.m. Holy Communion, in the Chapel  
11 a.m. Choral Holy Communion  
(Choral Morning Prayer on the  
2nd Sunday of the month)  
Nursery Care, 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Adult Bible Study, Church School and Youth  
Programs, Sunday Mornings, 9:45 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.

# City No Longer Accepting Certain Electronic Devices for Waste Collection

Beginning January 1, 2013, the City of Pittsburgh will no longer be able to accept the following items for garbage collection: all **televisions, desktop and laptop computers, keyboards, printers, and other external input/output computer devices.** These changes in collection are a result of the Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA), PA Act 108 of 2010.

Covered devices can be disposed of by returning the unwanted device to the device's manufacturer or an electronic retail store. Retail stores must have programs to accept items for recycling at no cost to the consumer, allowing each person to do their part in helping to safely dispose of old electronic devices.

For more information on collection changes, please visit the City of Pittsburgh's website at [www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/article?id=1932](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/article?id=1932).

Suggested drop-off locations:

#### Construction Junction

Phone: 412-243-5025

Website: [www.constructionjunction.org](http://www.constructionjunction.org)

#### Goodwill Industries of SWPA

Phone: 412-481-9005

Website: [www.goodwillswpa.org/computer-recycling](http://www.goodwillswpa.org/computer-recycling)

#### eLoop LLC Regional Recycling Center

Phone: 724-519-7646

Website: [www.eloopllc.com](http://www.eloopllc.com)

#### Best Buy Stores

(all locations)





# Pittsburgh Green House February Courses

The Pittsburgh Green House, a project of ACTION-Housing, Inc., is a 110-year-old home that has been renovated as a weatherization training and educational facility where contractors and the general public can learn about residential energy and water savings and making homes healthier. Visitors can browse the resource center for information on do-it-yourself projects, contractors, and retrofit financing; engage in interactive educational activities; discover useful facts on informational signage throughout the building; and interact with their knowledgeable staff.



## February Courses include:

**Home Water Conservation**  
Tuesday, February 19  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Cost: \$5

**Starting From Seed:**  
Presented by a Phipps Master Gardener  
Thursday, February 21  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Cost: \$5

**Healthy Homes Series:**  
Hazardous Household Products  
Monday, February 25  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Cost: \$5

Pittsburgh Green House  
308 North Sheridan Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
(412) 362-4PGH • [www.pittsburghgreenhouse.org](http://www.pittsburghgreenhouse.org)

## HPCC Officers

### President

Monica Watt (412) 980-4208

### Vice President

Dave Atkinson

### Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

### Secretary

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

## HPCC Directors

Eric Randall

Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Nancy Schultz

Glen Schultz

Laura Smith

Vernon Simmons

Janine Seale

Christine Adams

## HPCC Committees

### Beautification -

Nancy Levine-Arnold

### Children's Events -

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Education - Dave Atkinson

House Tour - OPEN

Finance - Glen Schultz

Membership - Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331

membership@highlandparkpa.com

Newsletter - Monica Watt (412) 980-4208

editor@highlandparkpa.com

Nominating - Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

### Public Safety -

Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

public-safety@highlandparkpa.com

Reservoir of Jazz - Tania Grubbs

### Super Playground -

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902 &

Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366

Yard Sale - Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Welcoming - Nancy Schultz

Zoning - Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742

### Daniel J. Landis

Sales Associate

"I Make House Calls!"



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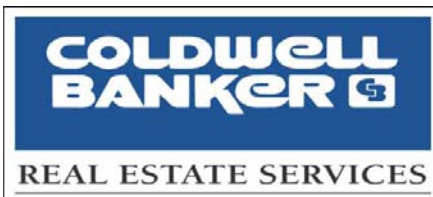
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