

September 2012

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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Back
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School

Reminder: Obama IB 6-12 is now located at Peabody High School. Please watch out for school students crossing the street.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

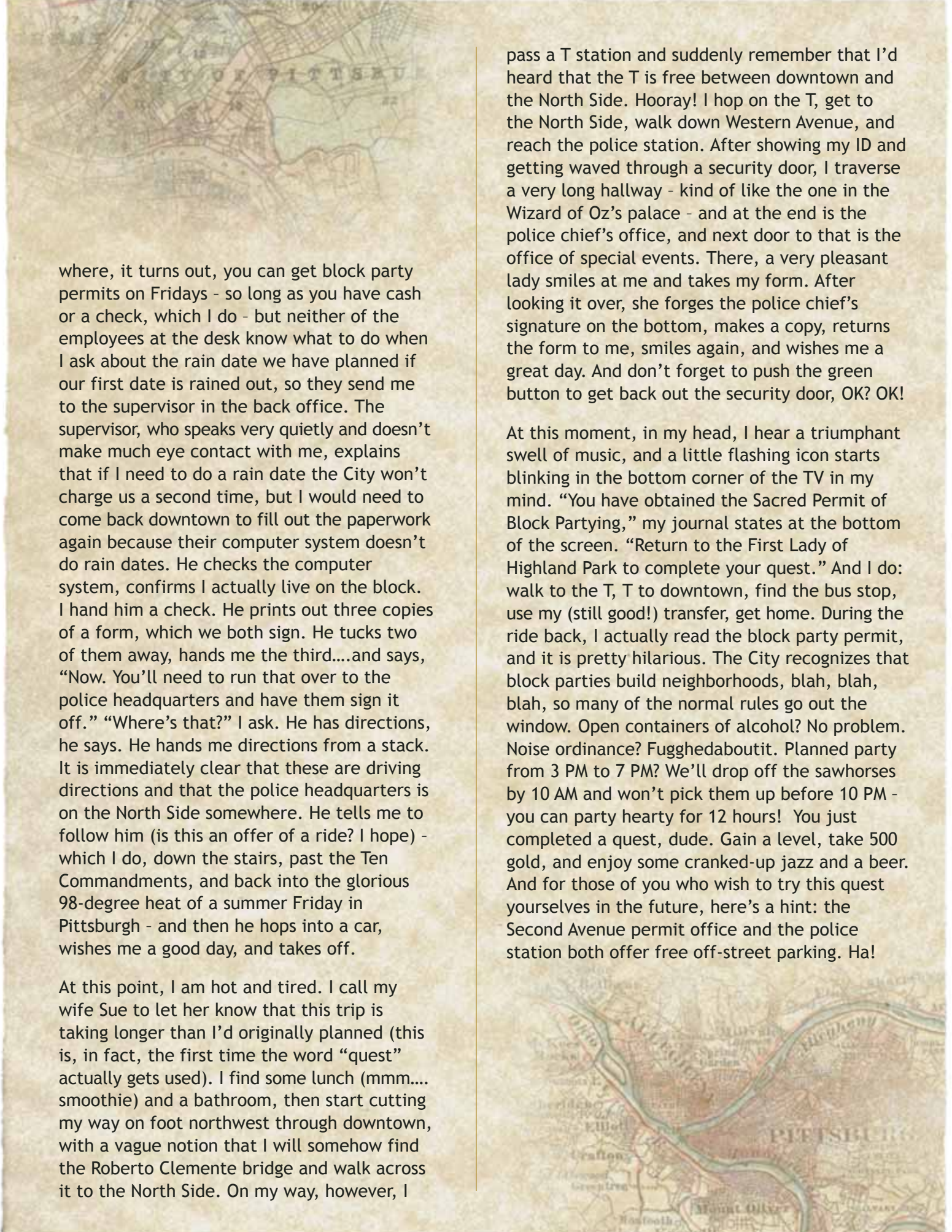
As a longtime sucker for both epic fantasy novels and role-playing games, I have enjoyed my share of quests over the years. The Knights of the Round Table had the Holy Grail. Frodo and his companions, the Ring of Power. Odysseus wished to simply return home after a decade of war against the city-state of Troy. My own recent quest was unexpected, but no less heroic: obtain a city permit for our street's block party.

The Pittsburgh Public Works department maintains a website that lists the fee for a block party permit (\$25) and implies, to the less-than-careful reader, that they are located in the City-County building on Grant Street. I called down there a few Fridays back and was given a specific phone number for the permits office. I tried that number and left a message, but never heard back. A couple weeks later, I had the Friday off and decided I'd just head down to Grant Street and sort things out. Since parking downtown can be a pain, I decide to take the bus; and because my wife and I rarely have much cash between us, I start my journey, in the sweltering heat, with about four bucks in quarters and a \$20 bill. I spend most of the money besides the \$20 just getting on the bus, being sure to get a transfer so that I'd be able to return for free - so long as my trip took less than three hours. Piece of cake, right?

I get to the City-County building and end up on the wrong part of the right floor. A very helpful public works employee takes me around to the front desk, where I'm told that (a) the permit folks are in a separate building several blocks away, on Second Avenue (the careful reader would have discerned this on the website), and (b) they don't do block party permits on Fridays. I'm also told I'm welcome to try calling them - I'm given the same number I'd been given two weeks before, and upon calling it, I reach the same answering machine as before. I figure since I'm downtown already anyway, I may as well walk over to Second Avenue and see if charm - or begging - will enable me to get a block party permit despite the heinous sin of attempting to do so on a Friday.

The Second Avenue office has a door buzzer; a few seconds after pressing it, I hear a click. The door opens onto a pitch-black hallway; lights start clicking on as I walk in. The lights lead me down a long, spooky hallway towards a sign indicating I should take the elevator to the permit office. While I wait for the elevator, I notice, on a pallet next to me, a huge marble slab with the Ten Commandments chiseled onto it, given as a gift from the Knights of Columbus or some other such organization to the City during some parade back in the 1950's. Is this for real? The elevator eventually deposits me at the permits desk,





where, it turns out, you can get block party permits on Fridays - so long as you have cash or a check, which I do - but neither of the employees at the desk know what to do when I ask about the rain date we have planned if our first date is rained out, so they send me to the supervisor in the back office. The supervisor, who speaks very quietly and doesn't make much eye contact with me, explains that if I need to do a rain date the City won't charge us a second time, but I would need to come back downtown to fill out the paperwork again because their computer system doesn't do rain dates. He checks the computer system, confirms I actually live on the block. I hand him a check. He prints out three copies of a form, which we both sign. He tucks two of them away, hands me the third....and says, "Now. You'll need to run that over to the police headquarters and have them sign it off." "Where's that?" I ask. He has directions, he says. He hands me directions from a stack. It is immediately clear that these are driving directions and that the police headquarters is on the North Side somewhere. He tells me to follow him (is this an offer of a ride? I hope) - which I do, down the stairs, past the Ten Commandments, and back into the glorious 98-degree heat of a summer Friday in Pittsburgh - and then he hops into a car, wishes me a good day, and takes off.

At this point, I am hot and tired. I call my wife Sue to let her know that this trip is taking longer than I'd originally planned (this is, in fact, the first time the word "quest" actually gets used). I find some lunch (mmm.... smoothie) and a bathroom, then start cutting my way on foot northwest through downtown, with a vague notion that I will somehow find the Roberto Clemente bridge and walk across it to the North Side. On my way, however, I

pass a T station and suddenly remember that I'd heard that the T is free between downtown and the North Side. Hooray! I hop on the T, get to the North Side, walk down Western Avenue, and reach the police station. After showing my ID and getting waved through a security door, I traverse a very long hallway - kind of like the one in the Wizard of Oz's palace - and at the end is the police chief's office, and next door to that is the office of special events. There, a very pleasant lady smiles at me and takes my form. After looking it over, she forges the police chief's signature on the bottom, makes a copy, returns the form to me, smiles again, and wishes me a great day. And don't forget to push the green button to get back out the security door, OK? OK!

At this moment, in my head, I hear a triumphant swell of music, and a little flashing icon starts blinking in the bottom corner of the TV in my mind. "You have obtained the Sacred Permit of Block Partying," my journal states at the bottom of the screen. "Return to the First Lady of Highland Park to complete your quest." And I do: walk to the T, T to downtown, find the bus stop, use my (still good!) transfer, get home. During the ride back, I actually read the block party permit, and it is pretty hilarious. The City recognizes that block parties build neighborhoods, blah, blah, blah, so many of the normal rules go out the window. Open containers of alcohol? No problem. Noise ordinance? Fughedaboutit. Planned party from 3 PM to 7 PM? We'll drop off the sawhorses by 10 AM and won't pick them up before 10 PM - you can party hearty for 12 hours! You just completed a quest, dude. Gain a level, take 500 gold, and enjoy some cranked-up jazz and a beer. And for those of you who wish to try this quest yourselves in the future, here's a hint: the Second Avenue permit office and the police station both offer free off-street parking. Ha!

The block party itself was great, everything you could ask for: neighbors and food, jazz and beer, kid's events and nametags, people signing up for the phone list, a sense that this was just the first of what will become an annual tradition. The research and fliers and planning meetings and door-knocking, the contact list, the e-mails, the Evite, the sound system testing and placement of the sawhorses, all boiled down to a bunch of people on the same street coming out of the front doors and sharing a fabulous potluck. We had a blast...and before I knew it, it was over. My oldest son, Alex, who did an amazing job with neighbor Marie organizing the kids' events, begged me to keep the sawhorses in place until 10 PM ("the permit says you can, Dad!") and the party did go about 90 minutes past the original plan, but at some point, it needed to end. All of the work had been totally worth it - and yet, I couldn't believe the time had gone by so fast.

Which kind of sums up how I feel about my time with all of you.

Over the past three years, it has been my privilege to serve as President of the Highland Park Community Council. You know how you sort of know an area when you drive through it every day, but you appreciate it on a whole different scale when you walk the same route and have more time to see everything? Being on the community council has been like that for me. Reservoirs and jazz, zoo and cell towers, bike lanes and traffic, crime and noise, zoning and children's events, businesses and block parties, scouting projects and trash pick-up, history and websites, elected officials and schools.

And this newsletter...what started as a monthly task to fill the front page (that second major in creative writing is finally good for something!) gradually became a challenge to find something new to say, month after month...but also became a real

pleasure, as many of you went out of your way to tell me how much you'd enjoyed my ramblings. Over time, you gave me a real sense of connection with all of you, and with the neighborhood where I'm putting down roots and raising my kids. Thank you for that.

I want to especially thank some individuals who have been very helpful to me during my time as President. Mike Nadler (may he live forever!), immediate past President, gave me invaluable advice and support during my first several months on the job. Monica Watt, meanwhile, has been an amazing Vice-President and has also transformed the newsletter into its current glorious state. Her warmth, generosity and energy have made her an indispensable partner in co-leading the council. I am blessed to count her as a friend, and we are all blessed that she has agreed to take the gavel as HPCC President for the upcoming year.



Last but not least, I would like to express my deep and abiding appreciation for the First Lady of Highland Park, Susan Randall, my friend of 21 years, wife for 15. She has managed the home front and the kids while I've been off at HPCC meetings, provided encouragement when

I was stumped for article topics, accelerated meals so I could avoid attending meetings on an empty stomach, and given me time and space to write to all of you. You also have her to thank (or blame, if you wish) for me moving to Highland Park in the first place. The sweetness she brings to my life has enabled me to share some goodness with all of you.

All the best to each and every one of you in all of your endeavors, large and small!

The Village of Highland Park needs you to Increase its Big-City Appeal and Small-Community Feel. Do you accept this Quest?

Eric D. Randall
HPCC President



HPCC August Meeting Minutes

Eric Randall, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm with a quorum present.

Paul Miller, Treasurer, spoke about preparing for the budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. He will send notices to all committees to submit their budgets for next year.

Nancy Schultz reported that she is working on Welcome bags with Janine Seale. She also gave an update on the status of changing to a 501(c)3 designation. CTAC is assisting with filling out the application and any changes to the bylaws that are needed.

Paul Miller also reported that many businesses are planning a meeting to start a business association in Highland Park, with some assistance from the HPCC.

Nominations were made for the election of Officers and Directors in September. The proposed slate is:

President - Monica Watt
Vice President - Dave Atkinson
Treasurer - Paul Miller
Secretary - Bob Staresinic

Board Directors (3 positions) - Janine Seale, 2 positions still available. Eric Randall was nominated to fill the remaining time on Dave Atkinson's position, if he is elected as VP.

Officers and Directors will be elected at the September Members Meeting.

Jeff Hanna and his partners spoke about their plans to get a manufacturer's license to brew beer in the garage behind his property at 919 N. St. Clair Street. They have applied to the PA LCB for the license, and are in the process of investigating any zoning issues related to this project. They plan to produce beer for use in restaurants and bars, and will not have any retail space or public access at that location.

Jeffery Dorsey, Union Project Executive Director, spoke about the ongoing strategic plan and activities at the Union Project over the past few years.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm. The next HPCC meeting is the Member's Meeting, September 20, 2012 at 7:00 pm at St. Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton Street.



Liquor License Application in Highland Park

Introduction by Eric Randall

The Highland Park Community Council takes an active role in monitoring zoning-related issues in our neighborhood. When such an issue arises, we tend to insert ourselves into it, in as friendly and cooperative a manner as possible given the circumstances. Our job is to determine if a proposed change is a net positive for the community. If we believe so, we support it; if not, we oppose it.

Jeff Hanna, a Highland Park resident, has been brewing beer in his home as a hobby for some time. He and his partners are ready to take the next step - becoming a licensed brewer.

The CoStar Brewing group came to the HPCC's August meeting and described their plans to the neighborhood. They also took questions from the audience. They have already applied for a liquor license; they plan to approach the zoning board in the coming weeks. They have no intention of having beer sales or tastings on-site; their plan is to sell to local bars/restaurants. They have been extremely proactive and cooperative in engaging city council, the HPCC and our neighborhood in their efforts to establish a craft brewery in Highland Park. As such, our tentative inclination as the HPCC is to declare our general support for their plans. Before we do that, however, we wanted to take a final opportunity for community input and engagement.

Please email me at boardwalk_2000@yahoo.com if you have any concerns. Thank you!





CoStar Brewing

pittsburgh, pa


By Jeff Hanna

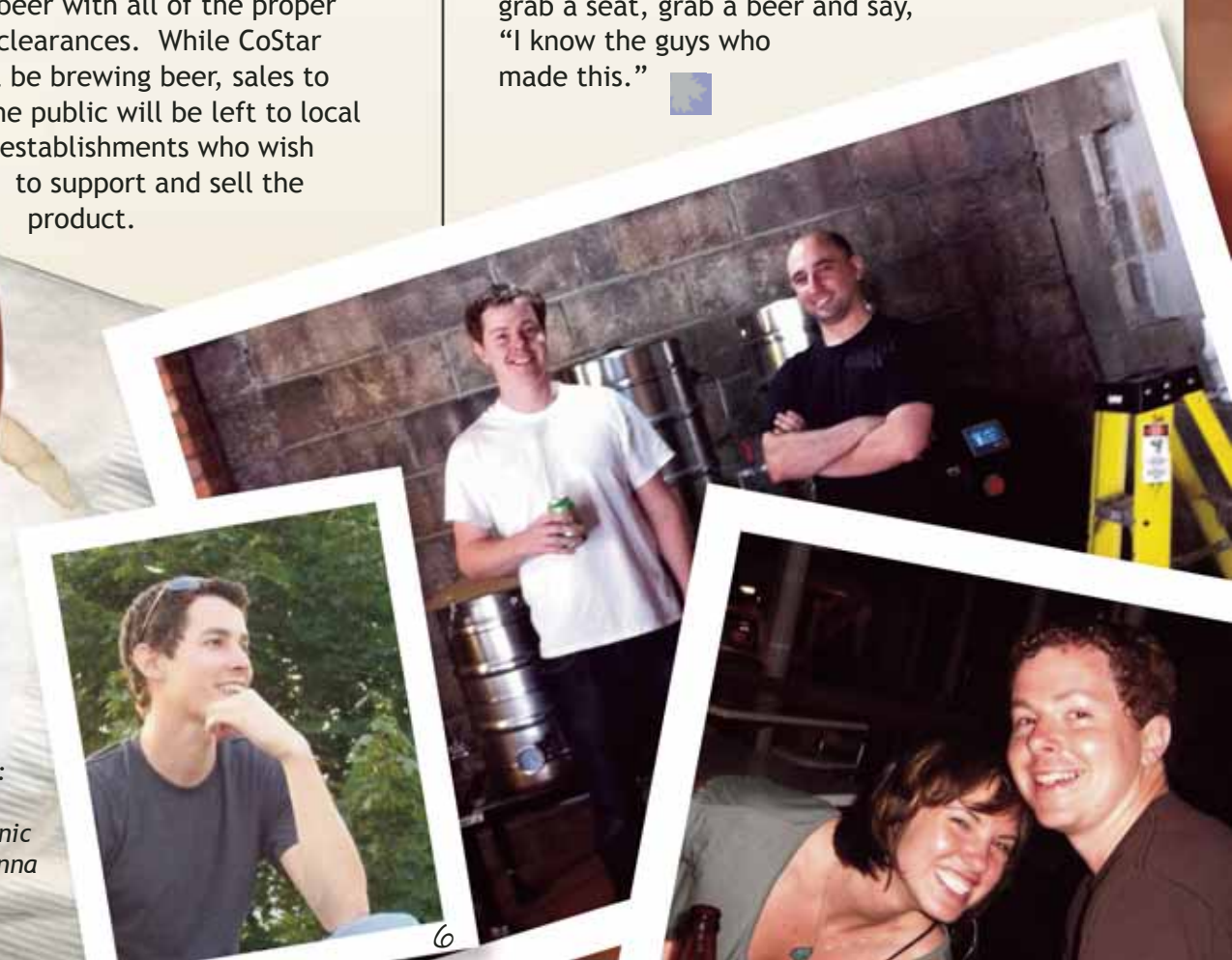
There is a chance you may have heard about a beer brewing business moving into the Highland Park area. You may even know the name as CoStar Brewing. Four local residents have spent the last few years home brewing and developed a love of the community and local business. This has culminated in a desire to create a craft brewery right here in Highland Park.

The group has been brewing on CoStar Way for a few years, always with dreams of seeing their local brew on tap next to the Pittsburgh beer stalwarts in some favorite bars and restaurants. The only way for that to happen is for CoStar to get properly licensed and work with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to form a real brewery. So that's just what has happened.

Shortly this little garage will really be able to brew beer with all of the proper legal clearances. While CoStar will be brewing beer, sales to the public will be left to local establishments who wish to support and sell the product.

Craft beer has been gaining ground over the years and CoStar wants to make sure Pittsburgh isn't left out. Your average craft brewer produces 5000 + barrels a month while CoStar will be looking to produce roughly 2 (equivalent to about 62 gallons) barrels to start. This will introduce CoStar to the local market without disrupting the harmony of our neighborhood. CoStar is looking to work with the community to create a product and culture of which Highland Park can be proud - one that will also have a positive impact on the local economy.

CoStar has worked long and hard to produce something they are proud of and with Highland Park's continued support it won't be long until the community can proudly say CoStar is local and now available. We want nothing more than for our friends and neighbors to be able to grab a seat, grab a beer and say, "I know the guys who made this." 



Pictured from L to R:
Thomas Hanna, Ken
(Jeff) Hanna & Dominic
Cincotta, Caitlyn Hanna
& Ken (Jeff) Hanna

YINZ



A Letter From Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Dear Neighbors,

Throughout the summer, the City worked vigorously to improve streets, repair sidewalks and upgrade the overall maintenance of our neighborhoods. The Department of Public Works (DPW) maintains and cleans our City's streets, parks and public spaces, working to beautify our neighborhoods and make them safer.

The warm summer months allow more outdoor work to be completed, and this year we've raised the bar by increasing the amount of streets paved and working with more community groups to clean up their blocks. So far, we have paved almost 50 miles of City streets and expect to complete 60 miles by the end of this year. Also, 56 new handicap ramps have been installed, with an expected 104 to be completed by the year's end. DPW has also worked with Redd Up and Green Up groups to clean 43 lots, board up 102 abandoned buildings, clear 466 tons of debris, create 12 new community gardens and officially open the South Side Dog Park. If you haven't checked it out yet, visit the City's newest dog park at 18th Street and Riverfront Park.

The City's parks are fun, safe areas for families and children to socialize during the summer and after school. Safety repairs and improvements have recently been made to many of the City's 145 parks and playgrounds, including upgraded courts, lighting and overall appearance. Also, over the summer, 17 City pools were available for families to enjoy, including the repaired and improved Moore Pool in Brookline.

All year round, the City works diligently to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean, providing the environment, resources and services that make Pittsburgh America's "Most Livable City." Please do your part to keep up the progress by working with neighbors and City representatives to combat blight, litter and crime, and help continue the transformation of our City.

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl

Luke Ravenstahl
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh



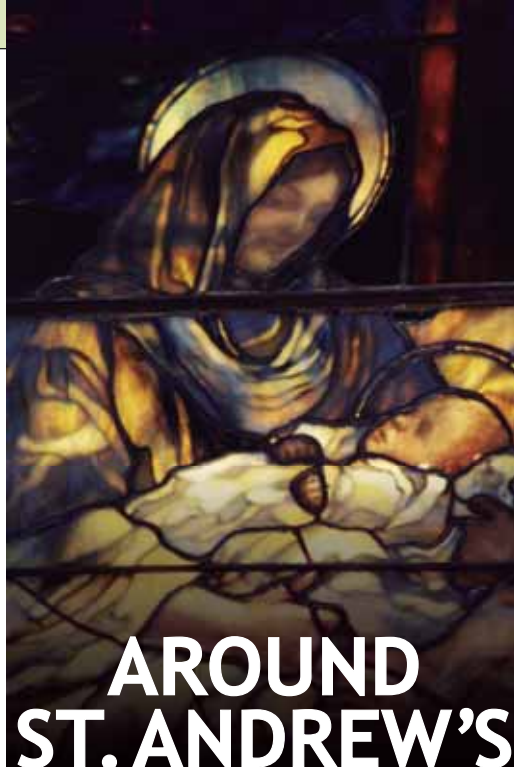
Steeler game tonight!



As Summer begins to fade in Western Pennsylvania, the first service of the morning, as we resume the Fall Schedule, is 9 a.m., Holy Communion, contemporary language, in the Chapel, followed at 9:45 a.m. by our Montessori-themed “Godly Play” program, and a class for 4th and 5th grade “Tweens.” At 10 a.m. our “Coffee and Conversation” Adult Forum begins in the Parish Hall, and our Sunday Adult Bible Study gathers in the Clover Room downstairs in the Old Rectory.

The Choral Service of Holy Communion (Choral Morning Prayer on the Second Sunday of each month), traditional language, begins at 11 a.m. Younger children attend the first part of the later service with their families and part way through the service will be invited to join Children’s Chapel upstairs in the Parish House. Nursery Care for infants and toddlers is available from 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Parents interested in our Church School and Youth Programs are invited to contact our Church School Director (and Highland Park’er) Liz Buchanan at churchschool@standrewspgh.org. All interested in our Parish Choir and Music Program should contact our Organist and



AROUND ST. ANDREW’S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

Choirmaster (and Highland Park’er) Peter Luley, at peterluley@aol.com. Or just call the Church Office for more information.

In September, we also resume our midweek schedule, with Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., with the Rector’s Bible Study following 11:15 a.m. - noon.

Our service schedule includes two services of Choral Evensong. We begin in September with a Third Sunday of the Month, 4:30 p.m. service of Choral Evensong and Sermon, sung by St. Andrew’s Schola Cantorum. The fall Sunday afternoon series will begin on September 16, at 4:30 p.m., and we are

delighted to welcome as our guest preacher at that service the Rev. Dorsey W.M. McConnell, Bishop-Elect of our Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

And we can mark calendars now for the first “First Thursday of the Month” service of Choral Evensong of the fall season, 8 p.m., on Thursday, October 4, sung by the St. Andrew’s Parish Choir and followed by a musical recital. A festive reception in Brooks Hall will follow all the “First Thursday of the Month” evening services.



St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
5801 Hampton Street
Highland Park
Pittsburgh
412-661-1245
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.

Union Project Receives Citizen Service Award

Union Project was honored with the Citizen Service Award from Mayor Luke Ravenstahl for dedication to the community.

Mayor Ravenstahl created the Citizen Service Award to acknowledge individuals and organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to addressing local challenges and improving the quality of life in the City of Pittsburgh. Based on UP's diverse program offerings, focus on volunteering, and the shared community space that they created through the restoration of their building, Mayor Ravenstahl proclaimed July 27, 2012 as a day to honor UP's service to Pittsburgh.

If you know someone who is making a difference in their community, consider nominating them for a Citizen Service Award at www.pittsburghpa.gov/serveph/csa/.



HPCC Officers

President

Eric Randall (412) 661-1176

Vice President

Monica Watt (412) 361-7902

Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Secretary

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

HPCC Directors

Dave Atkinson

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 Committees

Beautification -

Nancy Levine-Arnold

Children's Events -

Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Education - Dave Atkinson

House Tour - OPEN

Finance - Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742

Membership - Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331

membership@highlandparkpa.com

Newsletter - Monica Watt (412) 361-7902

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

Council to Go

Join Councilman Patrick Dowd and his staff at Council to Go, his mobile district office, to voice your concerns, ideas, and questions about local government and services.

Highland Park - Thursday,
September 27, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Enrico's Tazza D'Oro

www.pittsburghpa.gov/district7/ctg

www.
highland
parkcc.
word
press
.com

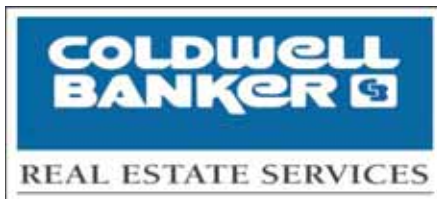
check us out!

East Liberty Historical Exhibition, 2013

The East Liberty Valley Historical Society is planning to hold an Exhibition in late Spring or early Summer of 2013. This event will feature paintings, decorative arts, and historic artifacts celebrating the impressive history and works of individuals and institutions in the East Liberty/East End area from its 18th Century beginnings to the "Glory Days." The Exhibition will be held indoors at a secure location.

We have prepared this advance notice to ask current residents and those with past East End connections to begin considering what you might be willing to have exhibited in this "never before" event. Do you have an historic document, a piece of commemorative silver, historic clothing, military paraphernalia, an artifact of historic interest, something belonging to a notable person, photographs, a first edition book, etc., with a connection to the area?

To discuss any possibilities, please write, email, or call Alfred Mann, President, East Liberty Valley Historical Society:
1251 N. Sheridan Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15206,
alfred.mann@verizon.net, 412-661-5947.



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LISA SOLOMON & JESSICA ALLEN

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**We Get Homes Sold!
2 Heads are Better than 1
Contact Us...We Are Available!!**



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