

February 2019

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 A Letter from the President
- 3 January Meeting Minutes
- 4 Venture Outdoors Tours
- 5 Your Most Pressing Maple Syrup Questions, Answered
- 7 Highland Park Nature Watch
- 10 PWSA Orthophosphate Project Update
- 11 Around St. Andrew's



*Austere Winter Beauty
at the Reservoir*

Photo by Elizabeth Foley

A Letter from the President

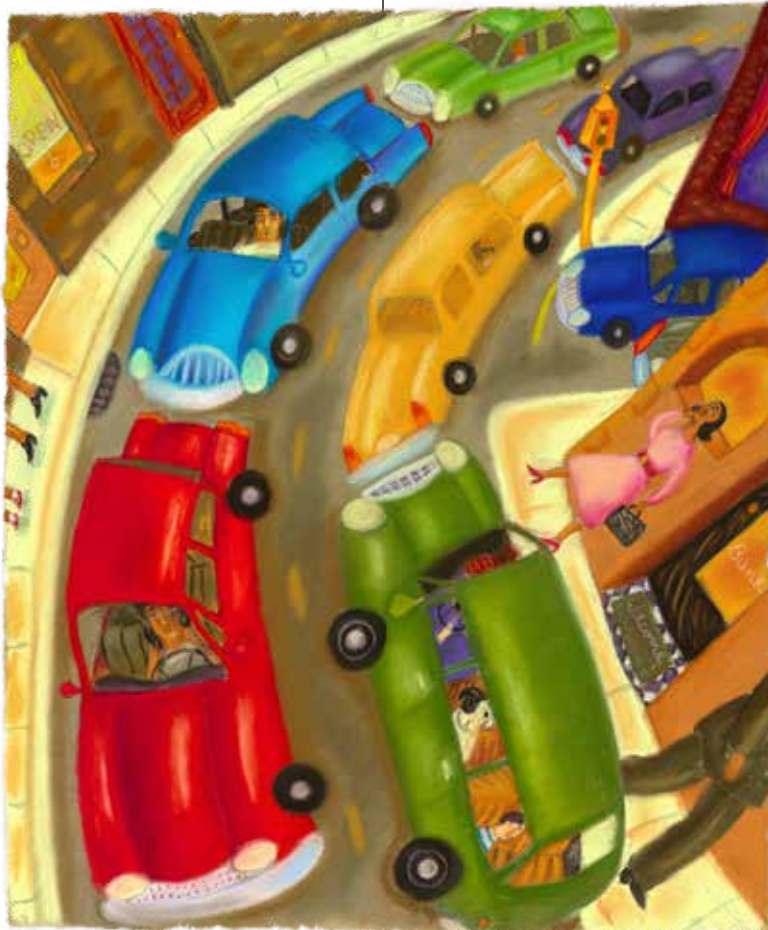
Hello everyone! With winter almost over, we need to begin planning for our busy season in Highland Park and with the warm weather comes more traffic.

In September, I invited Karina Ricks, Director of Mobility and Infrastructure, City of Pittsburgh to the HPCC meeting to address some neighbors concerns about speeding on Heberton. Dir. Ricks shared that they had put in cameras a few weeks earlier to record what was happening on the street. It turns out, the actual traffic amount was lower than expected, but that the speed at which the vehicles were traveling was outrageous. As I recall, some vehicles were doing 58 mph up the hill.

At the time, we had a conversation about the use of speed calming techniques including the radar speed indicator signs used to tell drivers how fast they are traveling as they pass them. The technology has improved to such an extent that the cost is reasonable, their size is small and some even run on solar power.

I had asked if the HPCC could purchase one or two to use in our neighborhood – on the most obvious streets, N. Highland and N. Negley. Councilwoman Deb Gross said that she would find out what the regulations / restriction were and if the City would agree to it. It turns out they will, but they do not want to keep moving the signs to different streets as we would need to get approval each time and they would have to task people to make the move. Deb asked if we could get streets preapproved, would they agree to letting us do it. So far, the answer has been yes.

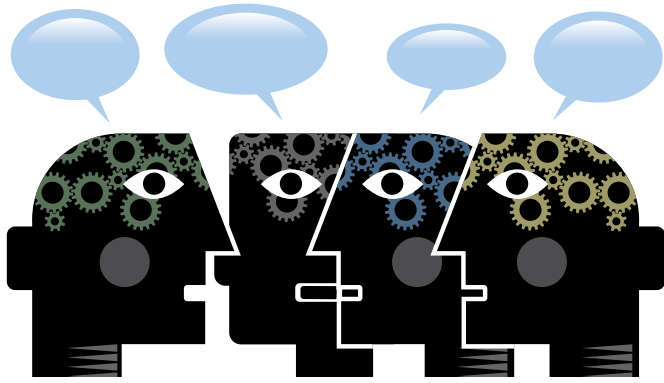
Now that the initial hurdles are out of the way, we need to supply a list of streets where we feel speeding is an issue and that we would want to mount the signage for a period of time to help calm traffic. Again, N. Highland and N. Negley are a must. I have received complaints about Stanton Avenue by the tennis courts in the past. If anyone has any additional suggestions, please let me know as soon as possible.



A planning reminder that the Great Highland Park Yard Sale is the first Sunday in June. I've been taking advantage of the cold by staying in and cleaning out closets and the basement and already have 6 boxes of stuff for the sale!

All the best,

Monica Watt
HPCC President



HPCC January Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by
Monica Watt**

Police Zone 5 Update - Commander Jason Lando

Residents are invited to sign up for crime blast emails from Zone 5 to receive a detailed listing of crimes in Zone 5. The emails are sent out each Monday. Those interested should send their name and email address to Jason.Lando@pittsburghpa.gov.

Primary crimes reported in Highland Park continue to be car break-ins and car thefts. Residents are advised to lock cars and not to leave unattended cars warming up.

Zone 5 officers are looking for at-risk youth, ages 13-19, to participate in their Youth Engagement Program. The program connects 10-15 officers with youth using role reversal, food, and other activities to improve relations between police and youth.

PWSA - Rebecca Zito, Communications Project Manager

PWSA is working to improve its water system by building an orthophosphate storage structure near the open Highland Park reservoir to facilitate the addition of orthophosphate. A combined storage shed/picnic shelter will be constructed across the street for the microfiltration plant. Construction will begin on January 18th and is expected to be complete by the end of March. Reservoir Drive will be closed near the microfiltration plant, as well as access to the trail head in that area.

Interior construction for the UV treatment process is underway in the microfiltration plant. Security cameras will be installed and monitored via a new guard station to protect the open reservoir. PWSA advocated for the cameras in lieu of covering the reservoir or installing tall fencing around the water, which the DEP mandated.

Strategic infrastructure improvements were reviewed, including the pump station replacement and the installation of a new rising main.

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy - Jayne Miller, President and CEO

The Parks Listening Tour seeks to share information about the City of Pittsburgh parks' condition and collect public input at community meetings and through a survey on their website. The goal of the tour is to develop a long-term strategy for equitable investment and to bring more resources to the parks. Priorities for assets and maintenance of the City's 165 parks are to be identified by community input and sharing data. More specifically, it seeks to:

1. Restore existing parks and open spaces.
2. Modernize assets.
3. Assure resources for ongoing maintenance of parks.

Every resident should have access to a park within a 10-minute walk. There is a \$400 million shortfall for needed capital improvements in parks and at least a \$13 million annual funding shortage for parks maintenance.

The Parks Listening Tour presentation and survey found here. (<http://www.pittsburghparks.org/listening-tour>) Residents are asked to complete the survey here by the end of March. Results will be compiled and shared with the public. Once an investment strategy has been developed, funding will be sought through foundations and a ballot referendum.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. **The next meeting will be February 21.** David Hance, president of the HPCDC will be the featured speaker and will discuss the groups projects in the neighborhood, including Bryant Street.



VENTURE OUTDOORS



DOWNTOWN HISTORY HIKE AND FORT PITT MUSEUM TOUR

Explore downtown Pittsburgh and the Fort Pitt Museum on this half day adventure! We'll start with a guided tour of the Fort Pitt Museum, where we'll learn about Western Pennsylvania's role during the French & Indian War and American Revolution as well as the establishment of Pittsburgh. Afterwards, we'll head outside for a 2 to 3-mile hike through the downtown area to learn more about Pittsburgh's past, and present.

WHEN: March 9

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Downtown Pittsburgh

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy

MEMBER PRICE: \$12

NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$15

www.ventureoutdoors.org/events/82545/



EAST LIBERTY NEIGHBORHOOD HIKE

What better way to see the area and stay fit than an evening hike exploring Pittsburgh and the surrounding suburbs? We'll follow the sidewalks, staircases, and side trails as we wind 4-6 miles through various neighborhoods on these moderately paced hikes.

WHEN: March 19

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: East Liberty

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Moderate

MEMBER PRICE: \$8

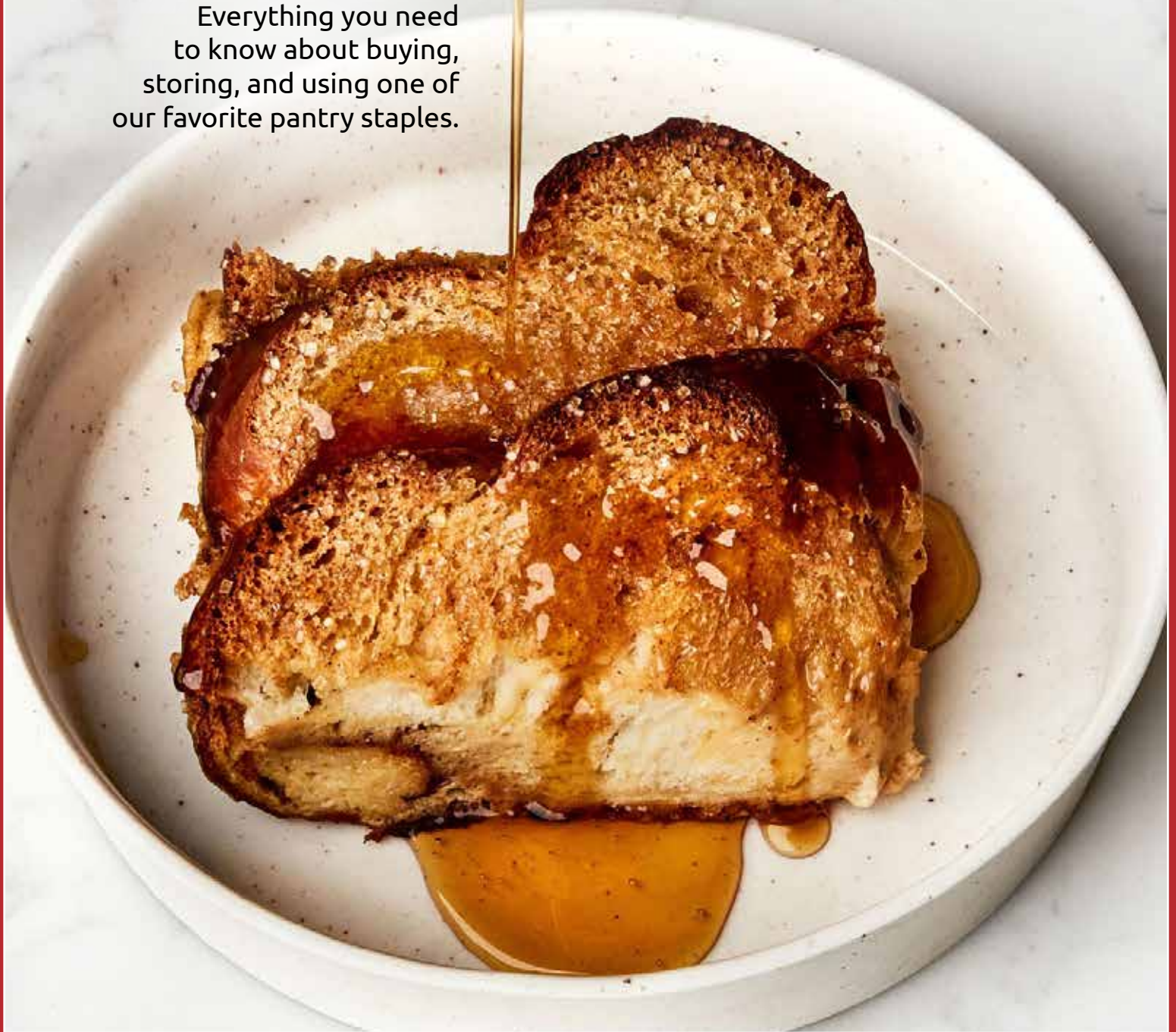
NON-MEMBER PRICE: \$12

www.ventureoutdoors.org/events/82552/

Your Most Pressing Maple Syrup Questions, ANSWERED

Courtesy of bonappetit.com

Everything you need
to know about buying,
storing, and using one of
our favorite pantry staples.



Do you only break out the maple syrup for pancake Sundays? Then you're missing out on the full potential of this liquid gold. A natural sweetener with depth and complexity, maple syrup goes with way more than breakfast. Here we present a collection of tips, techniques, and trivia that will help you pick out a bottle and use it for all it's worth. (And if you, like us, were ever wondering why so many bottles have a seemingly useless, teeny tiny handle, well—read on to know why.)

How do I pick the right syrup?

We strongly recommend 100 percent maple syrup. Syrup has a terroir, just like wine, coffee, and chocolate. Not only do the two sugar maple cultivars produce different-tasting syrup, but the syrup is dependent on the air, water, and soil, varying greatly region to region and season to season. Taste syrups from different regions to find out what you like best.

Why is it so pricey?

Syrup is so expensive because it takes 40 gallons (!) of sap to make one gallon of syrup. Sugaring season runs for just about two months, from early February to late March, in a very small region of the world, predominantly in the Northeastern United States and Canada, which means the supply is limited. But don't worry: Bottles are available year-round.

Where should I keep it?

To protect against fermentation and molding, keep open bottles in the fridge for up to a year. For indefinite storage, stow syrup in the freezer (it's too sugary to solidify).

What do all the grades mean?

Formerly divided into grades A, B, and C, the bottles at the store today are all Grade A, with USDA descriptors that clearly spell out the hue and intensity. Confused? Just remember: Darker syrup means bolder flavor.

Here's a breakdown.

Golden color, delicate taste: Fruity and subtle, it's easily overshadowed but makes the best substitute for white sugar when baking.

Amber color, rich taste: Popular for all-around use, it's the ideal table syrup for pancakes and French toast.

Dark color, robust taste: Bold in flavor, it holds its own in savory dishes like braises and in whiskey cocktails.

Very dark color, strong taste: With the most powerful maple flavor, it delivers the biggest bang for your buck—use sparingly!

What's pancake syrup?

Pancake syrup is corn syrup with artificial flavor and color, whereas maple syrup is 100 percent boiled maple sap with 33 to 35 percent water.

Make a crunchy maple topping for yogurt or oatmeal: Toss 1 cup toasted seeds or nuts + 3 Tbsp. maple syrup + 1/2 tsp. kosher salt on a parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet and bake at 350° for 15–20 minutes. Let cool, then break into pieces. Store in an airtight container for up to a week.

Dress up any roasted vegetable with an easy maple glaze: Whisk together 2 Tbsp. each maple syrup, unseasoned rice vinegar, and soy sauce, and 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes. Season with salt. Drizzle over vegetables and toss to coat in the last 5–10 minutes of roasting.

Okay, but what's up with that little handle?

It harks back to times of yore, when syrup was collected in big earthenware vessels on which handles were critical. Today, it's just a miniaturized sign to us consumers that what we're getting is a real deal. This sort of design, that contains just-for-show characteristics of the original, is called a "skeuomorph." (Use that on your next crossword!)

HIGHLAND PARK

Nature Watch

By Richard Krepski
richard@vision-and-values.com

SNOWBIRDS

Several Highland Park residents have observed Dark-Eyed Juncos (aka "Snowbirds") in their yards this winter. I didn't catch a glimpse of one at our feeder until late January. This may be because our feeder has recently been dominated by a large gang of House Sparrows.

The Dark-Eyed Junco is a sparrow-sized bird with a gray or blackish hood and dark back, contrasting with its whitish breast and belly. It has white outer tail feathers that flash as it flies. Juncos are attracted to open areas adjacent to woodlands, so the edge of the Park would be a likely spot to observe them. They

are also fond of feeders, but generally prefer to forage on the ground beneath them. In the wild, they like to land on the seed heads of grass stalks and pull them to the ground for a leisurely munch.

The Juncos that winter here are almost all a subspecies called the Slate-Colored Junco, with coloration

as its name implies.

This used to be considered a separate species, but now "Dark-Eyed Junco" is considered the proper term. Also keep an eye out for the "Oregon Junco," a variant with black head, red-brown back and rusty sides. Common in the West, it sometimes strays as far east as the Atlantic coast.

Curiously, the Slate-Colored Juncos we see here in the winter are nearly all males. The females, which have a tinge of brown on their backs, migrate further south. This is because the males want to get back to their northern breeding grounds sooner so they can stake out their territory. (Ref. Rachel Kappler, www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGdEpEVyLC4)

For more on Juncos, see Scott Shalaway's 12/7/17 column at farmanddairy.com. The link is: www.farmanddairy.com/columns/dark-eyed-juncos-remind-us-of-changing-seasons/460320.html



Oregon Junco



Slate-Colored Junco

COUNTING CROWS

*One for sorrow, two for joy
Three for a girl, four for a boy
Five for silver, six for gold
Seven for a secret
never to be told...*

But what does it mean when the count is ten thousand? In her outstanding nature blog "outsidemywindow.org," veteran local birder Kate St. John reported that she and a friend estimated ten thousand crows congregated in the Oakland area during the Christmas bird count. The massive communal roost has typically relocated to the bluffs in Polish Hill and the Hill District overlooking Bigelow Boulevard in January and February. Birds spread out to forage during the day, then return to the roost each evening. This is why we often see streams of crows over Highland Park in late afternoon at this time of year, heading towards the Strip District. In a Post-Gazette article on 2/16/14, David Templeton reported as many as forty thousand crows roosting in the Hill, centered in an abandoned housing project. The link is: www.post-gazette.com/news/science/2014/02/16/Ornithologists-say-western-PA-crow-roosts-should-be-embraced-others-not-so-sure/stories/201402160098

One reason for these mass gatherings is defense against predators, including the crows' arch-nemesis, the Great Horned Owl—a resident of Pittsburgh's parks.



A RECOLLECTION:

An almost-full moon broke through cloud-cover to illuminate the snow-covered ground. Thousands of sudden sparkles appeared, like the image on a glitter-laden Christmas card. I stood mesmerized, and then had a deep sense of my connection to everything—lines of light passing from sun to moon to snow to me, creating a scene of exquisite beauty.

A RECOMMENDATION:

Please use chemical insecticides outdoors only if absolutely necessary. The *New York Times Magazine* cover story for 12/2/18, "The Insect Apocalypse Is Here," by Brooke Jarvis, documents the dramatic decline in insect populations worldwide. It's not just bees, though that in itself is bad enough. Causes include loss of habitat, climate change, and chemicals in the environment. Our Planet's ecological balance is under serious threat. We've got to be better stewards of the Earth. Think globally, act locally!

Our neighborhood is blessed with a great deal of natural beauty. Send your observations regarding unusual birds and other aspects of the "wild side" of Highland Park to my email on the previous page — I'll edit and compile them for this monthly newsletter. Your photos would be most welcome. No names or yard locations will be given without your approval. More timely bits of information will be posted on the Highland Park ListServ.



ANTICIPATION:

I've been waiting in vain for a really beautiful sunset to test the predictive powers of the website sunsetwx.com. Hopefully we're due for a magnificent one. In the meantime, here is the photo-memory of the end of a winter's day at the reservoir, courtesy of Amy Berecek.



Highland Park Orthophosphate Project

A PROJECT OF
PGH₂O

Project Information and Construction Update

About

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority is constructing two small buildings in Highland Park to house the equipment needed to add orthophosphate to our drinking water system.

The Highland Park facilities are located within the Sycamore Grove picnic area and near Reservoir I.

Orthophosphate will also be added at the Aspinwall Water Treatment Plant and the Bruecken Pump Station.

Why Orthophosphate

Orthophosphate is a food-grade additive used by water utilities across the country to reduce lead levels in tap water. When water with orthophosphate runs through the system, it creates a coating on the inside of lead service lines and establishes a barrier between the lead pipes and the water. This is called corrosion control. It's an effective method, recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to reduce lead.

Traffic Impacts

Reservoir Drive will remain partially closed to traffic at the two orthophosphate buildings, leaving one lane open to maintain one-way traffic. Flaggers are on site to direct traffic.

Construction Schedule

End of March: Begin feeding orthophosphate into the water distribution system.

Spring 2019: Complete exterior and remaining sitework at the Sycamore Grove facility.



The Sycamore Grove facility will house the equipment needed to feed orthophosphate into our drinking water system and serve as a public amenity for park users to enjoy.

Construction Update: February 4 - 15, 2019

- Construction crews mobilized and broke ground at the Sycamore Grove location during the week of January 21st.
- Work includes foundation excavation and digging a trench for the first under ground vault. The vault will serve as an injection point for orthophosphate into the water distribution system.
- Once the foundation work is complete at the Sycamore Grove location, construction crews will move along Reservoir Drive to begin foundation and vault work at the second Highland Park location near Reservoir I.

Project Information

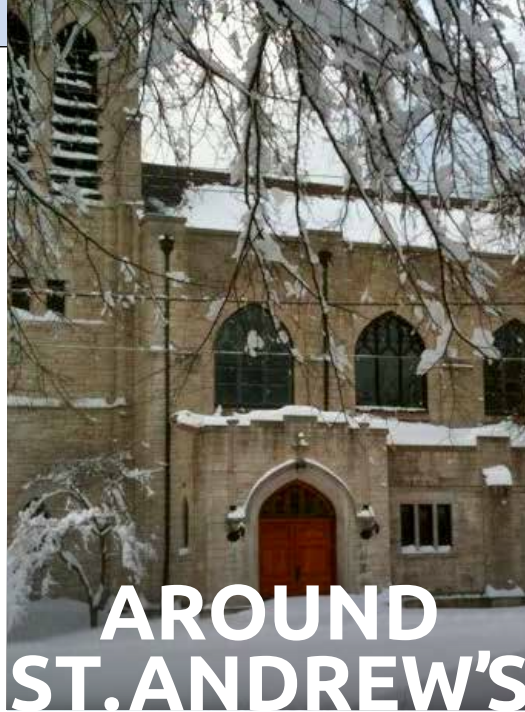
[www.pgh2o.com/
highlandpark](http://www.pgh2o.com/highlandpark)

Delivering Safe, Reliable Drinking Water

The Bucs are playing ball in Bradenton and winter gives hints of Spring--and we move on here at St. Andrew's and in the Church Calendar into the rich seasons of Lent.

All in the neighborhood are warmly invited, as always, to join us for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party on Tuesday evening, March 5, from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. downstairs in Barley Hall. Great food, the traditional Pancake Toss competition--and of course the crowning of the King and Queen of the Mardi Gras!

Ash Wednesday services follow, then on March 6, at 7:15 a.m., 12 noon, and 8 p.m., with the Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Holy Communion. And on the Thursday after Ash Wednesday, March 7, at 8 p.m., the Parish Choir will sing a service of Choral Evensong for Lent. Following that service will be a musical recital featuring the Finestra Quintet.



By Bruce Robison, Rector

Those wishing for a time of spiritual enrichment in Lent are invited to join us on Saturdays March 9th and 30th, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., for "Following the Mystics through the Narrow Gate," a times of silent reflection and group conversation centered around video presentations by James Finley. Continental breakfast and beverages provided--and we're asked to bring a "bag lunch."

Also on our schedule as we move into Lent will be programs for Adult Inquirers and Youth Confirmation. Check the "Events" page of the

St. Andrew's website for more information and schedules.

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. 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.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
5801 Hampton Street
Highland Park, Pittsburgh

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

412-661-1245 • www.standrewspgh.org

KITCHEN NOW OPEN!



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

HPCC Officers

President

Monica Watt (412) 818-4702

Vice President

Stephanie Walsh

Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Secretary

Karin Manovich

HPCC Directors

Christine Adams

Sam Albano

Dave Atkinson

Dave Grasso

Mary Beth Green

Betsy Rogers

Mac Lynch

Justin Sandherr

HPCC Committees

Beautification – Nancy Levine

Children's Events – Teri Rucker (412) 482-2533

Education – Dave Atkinson

House Tour – housetour@highlandparkpa.com

Finance – Glen Schultz

Membership – Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331

membership@highlandparkpa.com

Newsletter – Monica Watt (412) 818-4702

editor@highlandparkpa.com

Nominating – Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

OLEA – Todd Shirley

Public Safety – Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863

public-safety@highlandparkpa.com

Reservoir of Jazz – Tania Grubbs

Super Playground – Monica Watt (412) 818-4702

Yard Sale – Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Welcoming – Todd Shirley

Zoning – Jake Pawlak



SHORT FILM ABOUT HIGHLAND PARK

Google Highland Park Nevena to view it
or go to bit.ly/2BFavDq



Nevena Staresinic

Relocation Expert & Realtor®

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Services

Shadyside Office

nevena@moderna.us

412-363-4000 (Office)

412-535-2616 (Cell)

How to Sell your Home Fast?

- Set the price well
- Stage the house beautifully
- Pre-market expose it
- Have a creative Marketing plan
- Negotiate consummately



REAL ESTATE SERVICES



Check us Out!
**www.
hpcc
pgh
.org**



6223 Meadow St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
phone: 412.362.0100
fax: 412.441.5678

Mike Fiore
Owner

Pittsburgh's Leading
Direct Repair Collision Specialists

Check the status of your car at
www.MikesAutoBodyPGH.com

email: fiore2001@aol.com



Cell: 412-849-9983
lisasolomon@howardhanna.com



Real Estate Services

6310 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-421-9120

**LISA SOLOMON &
JESSICA ALLEN**



Cell: 412-337-4081
jessicaallen@howardhanna.com

WE GET HOMES SOLD!
2 HEADS ARE BETTER THAN 1
Contact Us....We Are Available