

October 2018

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 A Letter from the President
- 3 September Meeting Minutes
- 6 HPCC Halloween Parade
- 7 Lecture: Criticism and Architecture in Pittsburgh
- 8 Highland Park Nature Watch
- 11 PWSA: Preparation Begins for Water Treatment Upgrade
- 12 Around St. Andrew's

CITY OF
PITTSBURGH
HALLOWEEN
TRICK OR TREAT

10/31/2018

5:30 TO
7:30 P.M.



A Letter from the President



At the September community meeting, it was brought to my attention that the survey results from our 2019 Capital Projects Survey had never been released to the neighborhood. Please find them below. The results were conveyed to Councilwoman Gross' office via letter.

One project, the reconstruction of the Super Playground, was selected by the HPCC Board as our top priority project. The current Super Playground structure has significantly exceeded its intended lifespan and we are working in close consultation with the City and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy on a plan to complete design work and proceed to reconstruction in 2019-2020. A capital appropriation is critical at this juncture to ensure that this project can move forward.

As City Council and the Administration began working to prepare the 2019 Capital Budget, the HPCC Board sought community input via a survey about potential neighborhood capital projects. The list of projects included in the survey was developed by the HPCC board with input from residents at a HPCC Community Meeting. 108 people responded with only one respondent indicating that they are not currently from Highland Park.

The survey included six Street & Road Projects and eleven Park Projects. We then applied a weighted average to the responses, resulting in the following prioritized lists:

Project Number	Project Name	Percentage of Respondents Who Ranked Project Top Priority	Percentage of Respondents Who Ranked Project 1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd Priority
S&R 5	Additional Paving	32%	26%
S&R 1	Street Lighting Improvements	17%	19%
S&R 4	New and Additional Waste Receptacles	13%	19%
S&R 6	Traffic Calming / Public Safety Measures	23%	17%
S&R 3	Mellon Terrace Improvements	9%	10%
S&R 2	Address Farmhouse Drive Flooding	6%	8%

Observations:

- **S&R 5 – Additional Paving** received the greatest support, both as individual first choice (32%) and for overall support (26%).
- Although **S&R 6 – Traffic Calming Measures** was the 2nd most frequently chosen project as individual first priority (23%), there were other projects with slightly greater overall support. While **S&R 6 – Traffic Calming Measures** received 17% of total votes, **S&R 1 – Street Lighting Improvements** and **S&R 4 – New and Additional Waste Receptacles**, each had 19% of total votes.

Project Number	Project Name	Percentage Who Ranked Project Top Priority	Percentage Who Ranked Project 1 st , 2 nd , or 3 rd Priority
HP 2	Lake Carnegie Restoration	13%	18%
HP 4	Park Sidewalk Installation and Repair	12%	16%
HP 6	Highland Park Swimming Pool Upgrades	10%	14%
HP 1	Heth's Run Project	17%	12%
HP 8	Reservoir Maintenance	13%	12%
HP 7	Walking Path Improvements	7%	11%
HP 10	Restrooms	11%	11%
HP 9	Park Trail and Land Maintenance	5%	9%
HP 5	New and Additional Waste Receptacles	6%	7%
HP 11	Improve Farmhouse Connectivity & Safety	6%	5%
HP 3	Hawthorne Grove Overlook Restoration	0%	1%

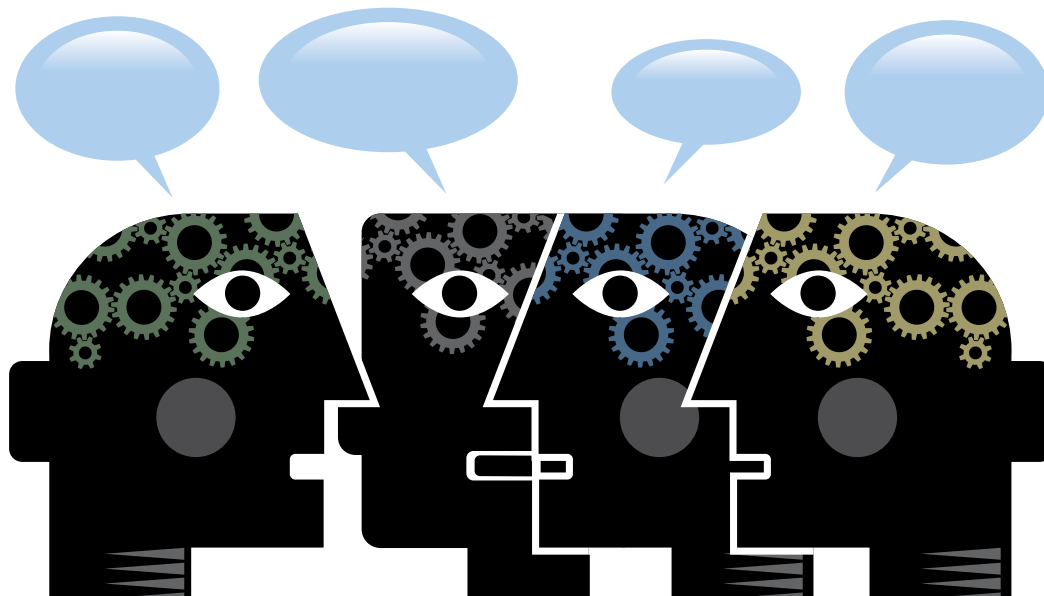
Observations:

- **HP 1 – Heth’s Run Project** was selected by the most people as their number one priority (17%).
- However, several other projects had greater overall support. While **HP 1 – Heth’s Run Project** received 12% of total votes, three other projects received a greater number of overall votes:
 - **HP 2 – Lake Carnegie Restoration** received 18% to total votes;
 - **HP 4 – Park Sidewalk Installation and Repair** received 16% of total votes; and
 - **HP 6 – Highland Park Swimming Pool Upgrades** received 14% of total votes.
- Additionally, **HP 8 – Reservoir Maintenance** received the same percentage of total votes as **HP 1 – Heth’s Run Project** (12%).

The next time a survey goes out, be sure to participate!

Monica Watt
 HPCC President





HPCC September Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2018

**Meeting Called to order at 7:05 p.m.
by Monica Watt**

Police Zone 5 Update – Officers McCale & Crawford

Car break-ins continue to be a problem, particularly in evenings and overnight. Zone 5 has a plain-clothes detail out. Be sure to lock your car and do not leave valuables in it.

They have a lead and a warrant out on the person stealing packages from Friendship.

The Commander sends out emails each Monday with updates on incidents in the neighborhood that people can sign up for; they are usually also posted in the ListServ.

A community member requested that officers patrol in the alleys, notably Robley Way and Orsenious Way, because there are incidents happening there. Zone 5 identifies hot spots where they do more intensive patrolling. If there are areas where people think more patrols are needed, community officers can increase patrol more there (call 311 to put in a request), but if there's a crime in process, people should call 911.

Community members raised concerns about traffic violations, including school buses that do not stop

at stop signs. The officers were concerned to hear these complaints and said that they should be called in. They mentioned that sometimes police cars may be driving through the neighborhood on the way to a call and cannot stop for a traffic violation if there was not an accident.

If there is an abandoned car that needs to be towed, send a photo of the car, its license plate and inspection sticker in the front window, and the location to Monica Watt and she will call it in to the police (monica.watt@elias-savion.com).

Mike Cmar – Pittsburgh Zoo, RAD Day

RAD Day, when admission to the Zoo is free, will be Sunday, October 7th from 9 to 5. Residents should expect more traffic than usual as attendance typically is very high on RAD days – sometimes they get up to 20,000 visitors. RAD is the Regional Asset District which provides funding for cultural institutions and sporting venues, including the zoo. The Zoo staff tries to prevent people from parking on Washington Boulevard, but it is a hectic day and some people park there anyway.

Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 9 – 11 a.m. is the neighborhood clean-up.

Meet in front of Fulton School. Afterwards there will be a party in Lawrenceville.

Susan Rademacher - Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Negley Run Watershed Project

Negley Run at lower Washington Boulevard is one of the worst areas of flooding in the city. There have been two incidents with deaths here, and it is the worst area in the city in terms of combined

sewer overflows. The Army Corps of Engineers is designing a new plan for that area. The Negley Run Task Force is seeking community input into that plan. The Task Force is seeking community input two ways, not just improve sewage and water overflow, but to help people connect to our water resources. There was a design charrette last month to brainstorm ideas for reconfiguring lower Washington Boulevard and project leaders are working on addressing water issues throughout the watershed. The Negley Run Task Force members includes the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Sierra Club, and representatives of local community groups, including the HPCC. They are also working with PWSA and ALCOSAN, as well as storm water engineers, urban planners, architects, engineers and community leaders. In the last year, they received several large grants, including one from the Heinz Foundation. They are hoping to develop a consistent process by which communities around the city can become engaged in these types of discussions. Next month the report on the charrette will be released. Copies will be given to PWSA and the Army Corps of Engineers to help inform the design process.

Matthew Falcone and Brittney Riley, Preservation Pittsburgh, and Angelique Bamberg, Clio Consulting – Preservation Pittsburgh’s Parks Initiative

Preservation Pittsburgh was formed approximately 30 years ago when the Syria Mosque was demolished. It’s a nonprofit that helps communities with preservation efforts, such as designating landmarks and working with City Council to advance good preservation policy. Its parks initiative was launched this year. In partnership with the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and other neighbors, it is working to get the major city parks listed on the National Parks Services’ National Register of Historic Places by 2020. Currently Schenley Park and Allegheny Commons are already listed. The timeframe for getting the other parks listed is:

- 2018 Frick Park
- 2019 Highland Park
- 2020 Riverview Park

Being on the National Register recognizes a site’s historic importance but does not directly

protect properties, but it does open grant opportunities and can be helpful for planning. It also can help facilitate getting the park included on the City’s Register of Historic Places. The City of Pittsburgh’s Cultural Heritage Plan specifically calls for Schenley, Frick, Highland, and Riverview Parks to be listed on the City’s Register of Historic Places and it is Preservation Pittsburgh’s aim to ultimately work toward that goal. Inclusion on the city register does add legal protections to a site: alterations to properties on the city’s register must be reviewed by the Historic Review Commission.

This fall, Preservation Pittsburgh will be doing research, taking photographs, and conducting land surveys in preparation for submitting an application for Highland Park to be considered for inclusion on the National Register. They need to look at when different parcels were acquired and if/how they were included in the park; inventory park assets; and determine what is of historic significance. For a National Register listing, sites dating back 50 years or more related to people, events, architecture, archeology can be considered significant. In the spring, they will submit a nomination and hopefully in fall of 2019, the nomination will be considered by the State Historic Board.

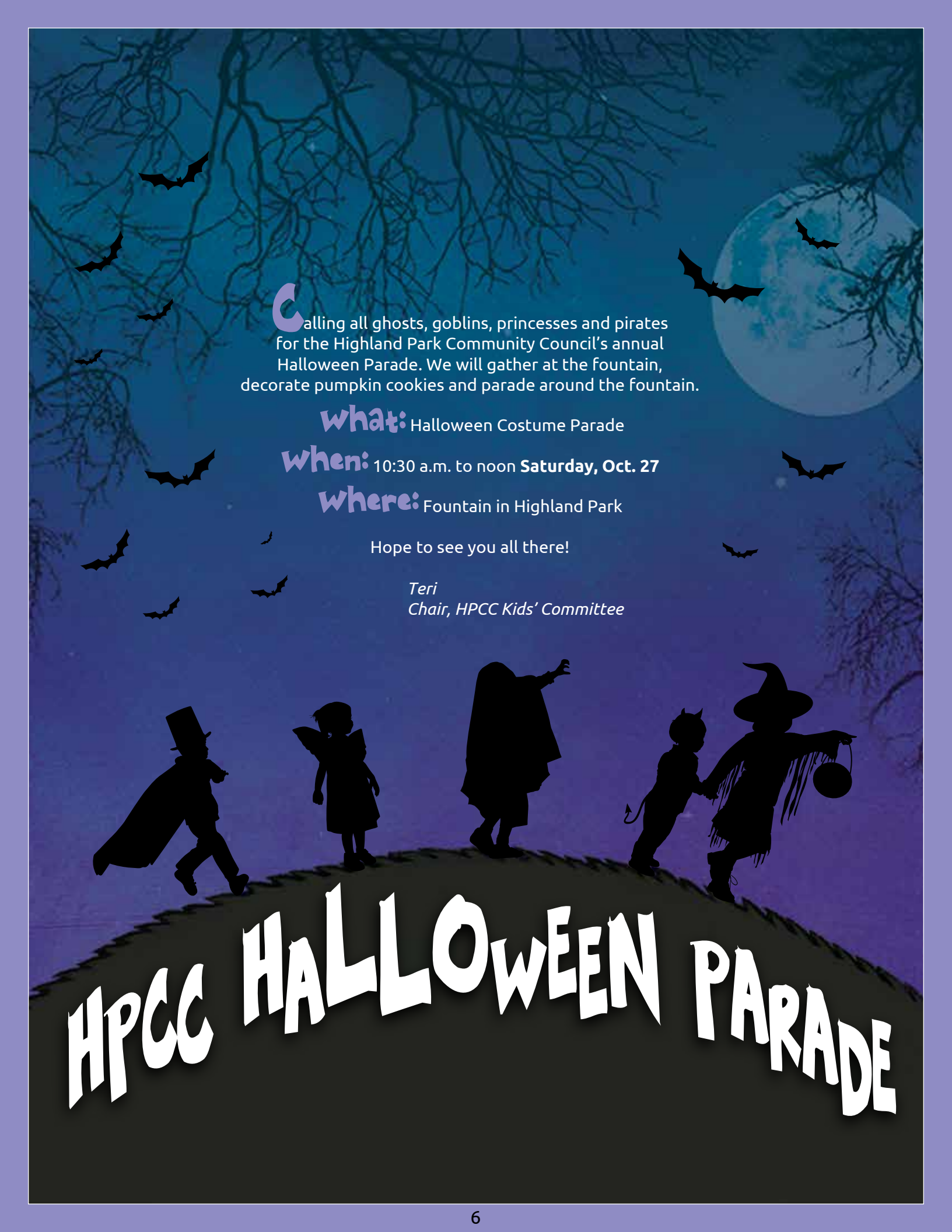
Preservation Pittsburgh will report back to the Highland Park community next spring with the results of its research and to talk more about what listing would entail, the potential benefits, and how it could affect future changes in park (such as renovations to the reservoir).

For more information, please visit Preservation Pittsburgh’s website and its page on its parks initiative: www.preservationpgh.org/parks-coverage/

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

October Meeting Speakers:

City Councilwoman Deb Gross and a representative from City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility & Infrastructure will be on hand to answer questions and give a presentation on traffic calming. And Rev. Paul Abernathy, the Director of FOCUS Pittsburgh, will also be attending to share his mission with the neighborhood.



Calling all ghosts, goblins, princesses and pirates for the Highland Park Community Council's annual Halloween Parade. We will gather at the fountain, decorate pumpkin cookies and parade around the fountain.

what: Halloween Costume Parade

when: 10:30 a.m. to noon **Saturday, Oct. 27**

where: Fountain in Highland Park

Hope to see you all there!

*Teri
Chair, HPCC Kids' Committee*



HPCC HALLOWEEN PARADE



L E C T U R E :

Criticism and Architecture in Pittsburgh



Charles Rosenblum

Writer and Architecture Critic

Tuesday, October 30 • 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Landmarks Preservation Resource Center

744 Rebecca Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

For decades if not centuries, architectural criticism has been a vital part of urban culture in cities of any size, and Pittsburgh has been no exception. The city has had eras of outstanding building and a number of good writers to praise or criticize the builder's art. But while the quality of the built environment has experienced partial though not complete decline, changing media culture and some prominent retirements have left Pittsburgh with an incomplete culture of architectural criticism.

About the presenter: Charles Rosenblum is a journalist, critic, and scholar writing about architecture, art and other aspects of visual culture. For the past 20 years, he has taught history of architecture and art at universities in Western Pennsylvania. His writing has appeared in books and publications nationally and regionally, including several for PHLF. He has won journalism awards for architectural writing in the Pittsburgh City Paper and Pittsburgh Quarterly. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia with a dissertation on the architecture of Henry Hornbostel.

These lectures are FREE to the public. RSVPs are appreciated: marylu@phlf.org or 412-471-5808 ext. 527.

HIGHLAND PARK

Nature Watch

By Richard Krepski

richard@vision-and-values.com



*Black-capped
Chickadee*

FANFARE FOR THE COMMON BIRD

Chickadees are observed year-round in our neighborhood, acrobatic little bundles of energy. I love to watch them hanging upside down at the ends of branches, munching on seed pods. There are actually two species common to Western PA—the Black-Capped to the North down through the Laurel Highlands and Appalachians, and the Carolina spread throughout the South. Their ranges overlap over only a narrow strip about 20 miles wide, which seems to sit right around Pittsburgh. Here the two species may learn each other's slightly different songs, and

also tend to cross-breed. Even with the advent of climate change, the ranges of the two species have only shifted slightly to the north—the map in my Field Guide from 1980 looks very similar to that currently found on-line.

Distinguishing the two species is quite a challenge, even for the experienced birder (which I am not!) It's somewhat easier in the fall and winter, when they have fresh feathers. The Black-Capped has sharper contrast between black and white on face and wings. It is also somewhat more colorful, with buff below wings and an olive tinge on its back.

*Carolina
Chickadee*



LesleytheBirdNerd has a great YouTube video on Chickadees. According to the video, in winter they expand the part of their brain that deals with spatial memory so they can remember where they have stored caches of seeds. Also, the Chickadee is able to reduce its body temperature significantly on long winter nights to conserve energy.



Tufted Titmouse

One of my favorite birds, the Tufted Titmouse, is a slightly larger cousin of the Chickadee (6" vs. 4.5"-5.5" for the Chickadee). It seems a bit more feisty and has a more complaining call. Titmice (or is it titmouses?) are gray on top, white on face and breast, and have rusty flanks. The tufted crest allows for easy identification.

WHY BIRDS MATTER

The Fall 2018 issue of *Carnegie Magazine* has an excellent article on how we benefit from a healthy bird population. The section that really resonated with me discussed how birds engage our curiosity. Michele Rice described how her young son's enthusiasm turned her whole family into ardent birders. She concludes: "In today's world where habitat destruction is constant and kids are glued to their latest electronic devices, getting outside and



Male and Female Goldfinches

engaged is crucial for our next generation to make a change and protect our environment."

“I do not feed the birds because they need me; I feed the birds because I need them.”

— Kathi Hutton
Quoted in 2018 Audubon "Birds in the Garden" Calendar



Cardinal

LET NATURE DO ITS THING

The same issue of *Carnegie* highlighted the efforts of Tree Pittsburgh to reverse the tree population decline in Allegheny County. From 2010 to 2015, an estimated 1.7 million trees

were lost, corresponding to more than 11,000 acres of tree coverage. Tree Pittsburgh grows and distributes saplings to residents, and offers training in how to nurture healthy trees. I would suggest another way to support our tree population—let a few select volunteer saplings do their thing. Nature knows what it's doing. When I started working on my yard 18 years ago, I let a locust sapling keep growing in the spot next to my deck where I dump grass clippings, leaves, and barren soil. Today it is 70



Honey Locust Tree

feet tall! The locust is truly a blessing. Its open foliage allows me to watch woodpeckers and nuthatches working their way along the multiple trunks. It provides great shade for the deck in the summer

BENEVOLENT BEES

Lots of Yellow Jackets are around right now. I had the unfortunate experience of stumbling into one of their nests several years ago. Yikes! Let's turn our attention to a more benign bee, the little green-headed Sweat Bee. Sweat bees are so-called because they like to lick the salt off sweaty skin—they mean you no harm. They are not aggressive, but will react if swatted at or otherwise hassled. They serve to fertilize a lot of smaller plants, and can supplement the work of honeybees where these species are in decline.

Early in the Summer I noticed a small volcano-like crater forming on the entrance path to my garden, from which emerged a number of small bees with metallic green heads. Sweat Bees do not live in hives. There is no division of labor. Each bee lives independently, establishing an underground nest. Sometimes they are solitary, but mine seemed to have established a kind of bee condo, with several bees having separate apartments.



Sweat Bee Nest,
Photo by Richard
Krepki

I covered the "volcano" with a basket to keep from stepping on it accidentally. This has acted to keep it intact all summer despite heavy rains. It appeared dormant until mid-September, when I watched dirt being bulldozed out of the crater and a new generation

of bees emerging to grow and breed. Only the fertilized females will overwinter and start a new generation next year.

A RECOLLECTION:

Parked by the Giant Eagle at Waterworks Mall on a bright, sunny day, probably in late summer/early autumn. The lot was filled with dozens of dragonflies, dipping their egg-laden abdomens toward the shiny hoods and roofs of cars, thinking they were seeing the sheen of pond water.



Dragonfly

A RECOMMENDATION:

After the flowers have faded, leave the seed-heads on plants intact. They have their own subtle beauty and provide food for birds through the fall and winter. If you don't over-mulch, plants may self-seed to yield a more dramatic flowering next year.



Cornflower

*Metallic Green
Sweat Bee*



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.

Preparation Begins for Water Treatment Upgrade

As part of PWSA's Community Lead Response, crews are performing extended water main flushing across the service area to prepare the system for the addition of orthophosphate. Orthophosphate is a food-grade additive that has demonstrated to be highly effective at reducing corrosion from lead pipes.

Due to high lead levels found in some homes, PWSA conducted an extensive study to determine if the Authority should use different water treatment methods to limit corrosion from lead service lines and plumbing. The Authority currently uses soda ash and lime to control for corrosion. At the end of a year-long study, orthophosphate was found to be more effective than soda ash and lime at reducing corrosion. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) agreed with the study's findings and approved PWSA's corrosion control upgrade to orthophosphate. Water systems in large cities across the country use orthophosphate successfully to reduce the risk of lead in water. PWSA is in the process of constructing new equipment required to add orthophosphate. In addition, the Authority is preparing for this treatment upgrade by flushing the water distribution system. The flushing effort will span several months and take place across the water service area.

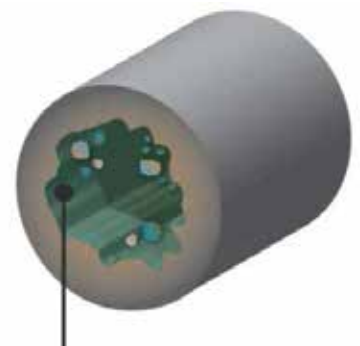
Over the next several months, PWSA will systematically flush the water system by opening fire hydrants. Flushing clears potential sediment from water mains and prepares the pipes for the protective coating that orthophosphate creates. Flushing will take place during the day and night and may cause temporary brown water for some nearby customers.

Read the FAQ on our website at pgh20.com/FAQ to learn what to expect during the flushing process, as well as more information on orthophosphate. For more information on PWSA's Community Lead Response, go to pgh20.com/lead-facts.

Pictured: An advanced water quality study demonstrated that orthophosphate will be effective at reducing corrosion from lead pipes.



A protective layer of Orthophosphate forms to prevent pipe from corroding.

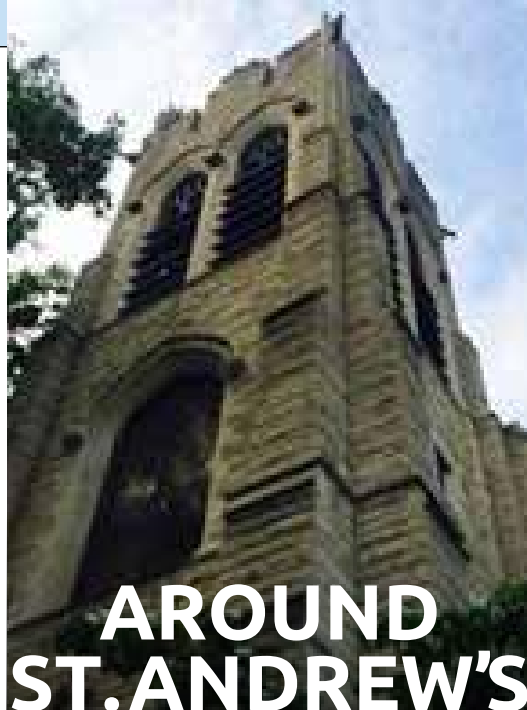


Lack of corrosion control allows lead to leach from pipes into the water.

October comes to an end, the last few Disney Princesses and Marvel Superheroes are finally home enjoying the spoils of Halloween, and off we are into November!

Families and all in the neighborhood are invited to the monthly St. Andrew's Family Movie Night. On Friday evening, November 2nd, our feature film will be the 2017 award-winning musical, *The Greatest Showman!* Starring Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, and Michelle Williams, this film was nominated for both Golden Globe and Kids' Choice Awards... The movie gets rolling at about 6 p.m. in Barley Hall. Pizza and some refreshments are provided, but all are welcome to bring treats to share! Families are reminded that children attending Movie Night are to be accompanied by a parent or other adult guardian. Also mark your calendars for the December Family Movie Night on Friday, December 7, with the always popular Tom Hanks animated *"Polar Express."*

On the wider Church Calendar the highlight of this season comes in the observance of the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls in early November. At St. Andrew's this year we remember the heroes of Christian life and our own loved ones with a special choral service of Lessons and Anthems on All Saints Day, Tuesday, November 1, at 8 p.m., and on the Sunday after All Saints Day, November 4, at our 11 a.m. choral and orchestral requiem service of the Holy Communion, with the Parish Choir and a chamber ensemble of the Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Guest Conductor Tom Octave. Always a beautiful and very meaningful service.



By Bruce Robison, Rector

On the local scene our own Patronal Festival, the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, is observed each year on the Sunday morning before the Thanksgiving Holiday - so, November 18. Joining us at the 11 a.m. service that day once again will be our good friends of the Syria Highlanders Bagpipe and Drum Corps. Weather permitting, we'll gather on the Hampton Street sidewalk a little before 11 a.m. to share the Highlanders with our Highland Park friends and neighbors!

Finally, looking just a bit further down the calendar page, we would note that

on Thursday evening, December 6, at 8 p.m., the Parish Choir will be singing Choral Evensong in observance of the Feast Day of St. Nicholas of Myra, and with a recital and performance of both sacred and secular music following by our good friends of the Bloomfield Liedertafel. A seasonal dessert reception will follow.

St. Andrew's has been on the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue and at the heart of our Highland Park neighborhood for over a century. If there is a pastoral need that we can help with - a baby to be baptized, a wedding to celebrate, a sick or shut-in friend or neighbor to be visited, a family to support at the time of a death - please feel free to be in touch. Or if you just need to find some space for a meeting or a family gathering, or to borrow a few chairs, we'll be glad to help if we can. Call us at 412.661.1245, e-mail office@standrewspgh.org, visit our website www.standrewspgh.org, and "Like" our Facebook Page. We're always glad to hear from you!

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 Rev. Jean D. Chess, Deacon
Peter J. Luley, Organist & Choirmaster

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

House Tour – housetour@highlandparkpa.com

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

OLEA – Todd Shirley

Public Safety – Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863
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Reservoir of Jazz – Tania Grubbs

Super Playground – Monica Watt (412) 980-4208

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



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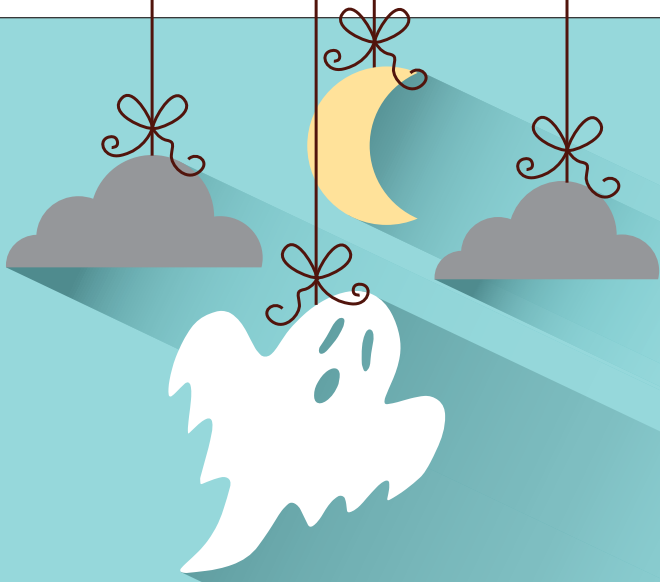
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- Set the price well
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- Have a creative Marketing plan
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