

December 2014

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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Happy Holidays!

A Letter from the President

I have lived in Highland Park for 18 years as of this month. It is hard to believe so much time has passed. My husband and I fell in love with the house first and the neighborhood months later once we got to know it.

It seems we worked the process backwards as most people pick a neighborhood they want to live in and then search for the perfect house. In our case, our house found us.

We had lived in Aspinwall and were in the middle of rehabbing a five-bedroom Victorian in Edgewood when we got a call from our realtor (and friend) about a house that was going on the market. I had not even heard of Highland Park until that moment.

The house was “uninhabitable” according to Dollar Bank, which reluctantly gave us the mortgage. I would have characterized it as barely inhabitable, but overall they were right - it was a mess. It is hard to imagine now that one of the big beautiful homes on N. Highland was so neglected and in such bad condition. The bones were good though and we could see the potential.

It took a few years of hard work to make it comfortable including rewiring and repointing the entire house, replumbing half of it, all new box gutters, new furnace and hot water tank, etc. Over the years we continued to make progress and after 6+ years we were well on our way to completed, if there is such a utopia in home ownership.

Our situation was extreme – everything needed to be repaired. But in most cases, many homes simply need to be brought up to date with a new kitchen, bathroom or walk-in closet. Others may want to restore a front entry or replace their windows for better efficiency.

During the house tour, we had many people express interest about learning from each other and experts on how to best care for their homes.

Based on this overwhelming interest, the House Tour Committee is planning an event for **February 21st** tentatively called “Love Your Home”. It will be a combination of having experts available for questions and special breakout sessions on a number of key topics including return on investment (ROI) making the right decision for your home and personal situation, navigating city processes such as permitting and innovative approaches to enhancing the value of your residence.

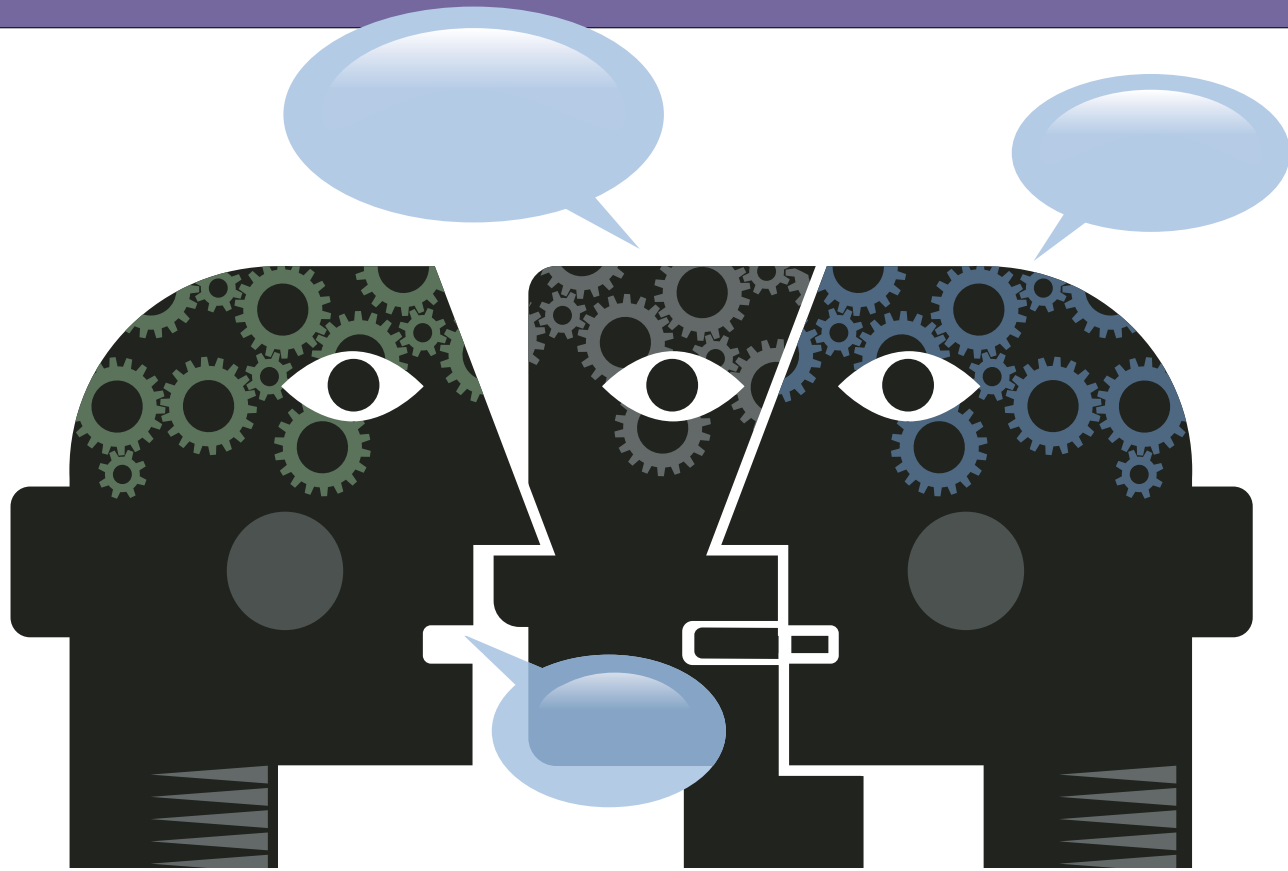
The homeowner survey we sent out last month is helping us craft the final format and key topics. If you have any other ideas or contractors you trust and would like us to consider for the event, please let me know.

You can look for more information about the event mid-January on the HPCC website or look for email updates on the HPCC ListServ.

Happy Holidays!

Monica Watt
HPCC President





HPCC November Meeting Minutes


David Atkinson, HPCC Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with a quorum present.

Commander O'Connor from Zone 5 brought a report of recent crime statistics, which shows it has been fairly quiet in Highland Park. A shot spotter system is coming on line soon, which will allow the police to identify where shots were fired. Cameras are also slated to be installed. The police received a grant for 15 community-oriented officers in Zone 5.

Nate Hanson, Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Deb Gross, spoke about upcoming rental registration legislation that is designed to keep landlords accountable.

Grant Gittlen, the mayor's Community Affairs Coordinator, spoke about a pothole blitz and a project to increase solar energy use in Allegheny County.

Jeffrey Dorsey, Executive Director of the Union Project, spoke about the history of the building and organization. He then updated the group on activities and plans for the future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm. The next HPCC meeting is Thursday, January 15th at 7:00 pm at St. Andrew's. The topic of discussion will be a potential Bed & Breakfast on Portland Street. Neighborhood feedback on the concept is needed. 



HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN HIGHLAND PARK?

By HPCC past president Dell Ziegler

I was sitting near the fountain in the Park this fall and saw my neighbor Tim Flood who lives on Heberton Street. He is a retired Trust Officer at PNC. We used to meet at the bus stop and, later, walking our dogs. He walks the Reservoir daily, and we had spirited discussions of politics and current events. I have lived in Highland Park for 40 years and consider myself a real veteran. Then I asked Tim how long he had lived here. "Eighty-six years." I was born in our house at the corner of Grafton and Sheridan and I now live about a half block away.

I decided this was a story worth sharing.

Tim's real name is Henry. His father, the head of pediatrics at West Penn Hospital, was known to his friends as "Tim the Irishman." When born as Henry in 1928, he was called "Tiny Tim" and it just stuck. He tells me that Fred Rogers and Andy Warhol were also born that year, but he never knew them. He had two older sisters and one younger brother. "Why in the heck would the wife of the head of Pediatrics at a hospital have a baby at home? You just came too soon?", I asked. "No," he replied, "It was a thing at that time. She just wanted one at home."



When he was growing up, East Liberty was like a small town, with six theatres! (Remember that television was not around yet). He rattled them off - the Enright, Regent, Sheridan Square, Cameraphone, Liberty and Harris family. Matinees for kids cost a dime. There were no supermarkets, but Bryant Street had two full grocery stores and a meat market as meats were not sold in the groceries. The current site of the Tasa Doro coffee shop was then McNalty's Pharmacy, where Tim worked as a soda jerk, a title that sounded better back then. The owner of the pharmacy, "somewhat of a cheapskate," taught all his soda fountain employees the art of scooping the ice cream so the impressive round scoop actually had a big hollow hole in it. Less ice cream, greater profit.

Tim went to Fulton and to Peabody High School, considered one of the top schools in the City. He was a good student so a teacher recommended Princeton University, where a cousin had gone, so off he went in 1944.

World War II was turning the corner in 1944, and Tim became part of a big patriotic push to join the military before the war was over. So Tim left Princeton his freshman year and joined the Marines. At age 17, he was sent for training at Parris Island and then to the Pacific, to Tientsin (now Tianjin), China, about 90 miles from Peking, now Beijing. Now I am a Marine myself, and we had heard stories of the legendary "China Marines". But I had never met one. When Tim arrived in 1945, the Japanese had surrendered and left China. The Communists were battling the nationalists all over China and Gen. Marshall was trying to broker a cease-fire. Tientsin was then a "treaty city", with different countries, including the U.S., having sovereignty in different sections.



The Marines were sent to protect the U.S. citizens and property. Tim said there was a large population of "white Russians" who had fled the Red Communist takeover in Russia. One prominent Russian, in the margarine business had two teenagers who invited the Marines to their parties every Saturday night. "That was where I learned to drink," he said.

Tim's job was to patrol U.S. property at night. Late in his one year tour, he was in a group sent in the night to rescue a military convoy to Peking that had been ambushed, with 4 or 5 Marine casualties. He remembered the medics, out in the open, preparing those bodies for shipment back home. I won't repeat the details, but if you have ever seen a hunter field-dress a deer in the woods, you will see the similarities. Two weeks later, President Truman pulled all the Marines out of China. Tim came home and was soon discharged. Within a year or so, the Communists took over all of China.

Tim returned to Princeton in 1946 on the G.I. Bill and majored in history. Then it was to Pitt Law School. He clerked in the summer at a Pittsburgh law firm that was business oriented and represented the Pennsylvania Railroad, a big client. After graduation, he was offered a job at Fidelity Trust, one of the top trust companies in the U.S. It only handled trust work,


no banking, but after numerous mergers over many years, it became Pittsburgh National Bank, and finally PNC.

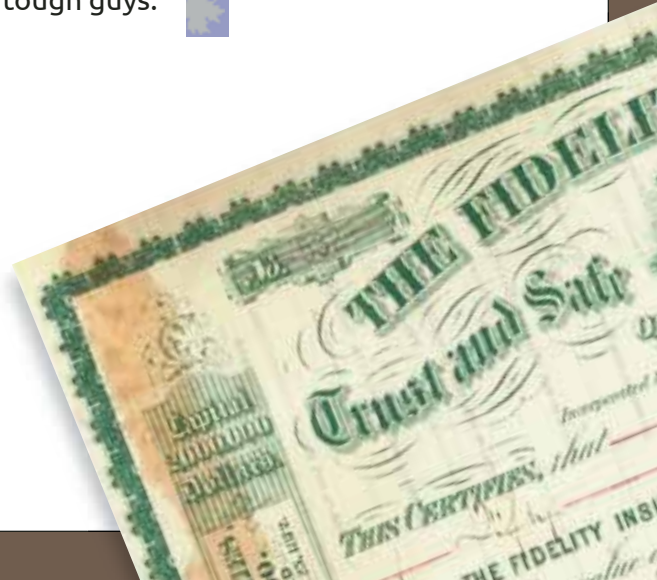
Tim's job was to administer trusts and estates and agency accounts. That meant an education in investing in stocks, bonds and real estate, lots of client contact, and good people skills. He was promoted from Trust Officer to Vice-President and retired in 1998 at age 70.

On a personal level, Tim said he was engaged twice in his earlier years, but things just never worked out. Then, in his forties, he married Marilyn Crawford, whom he had known since high school when she lived in Squirrel Hill. They had two children, Peter, who lives in Pittsburgh and Meagan who is in Washington, D.C., where her mother, now divorced, also lives.

Tim has been a long-time member of the HPCC and was very active. He worked on zoning matters and youth programs, like the local Little League baseball team once sponsored by the HPCC.

And now for the sad news. Earlier this year, Tim took a nasty fall, resulting in 10 weeks of hospital and rehab care. He recovered nicely but concluded that it was time to sell the house overlooking the ball field at the farmhouse and move to an apartment, in Shadyside. So we will lose a great neighbor, a personal friend, and likely record-holder for longest-term resident.

In mid-November, I talked to Tim about getting an hour or two of his time for an interview for this article. We set a tentative date a few days in advance, either at his house or mine. When it came, it was about 18 degrees out and windy, the coldest day of the year. I was not sure Tim would remember and tried to call him to suggest another date on a nicer day. I could not get through on the phone. An hour later, there was a knock on my door. Tim had remembered and walked over in that terrible weather to keep the appointment. Those China Marines are pretty tough guys. 



Highland Parker **Mairi Cooper** *Named Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year*

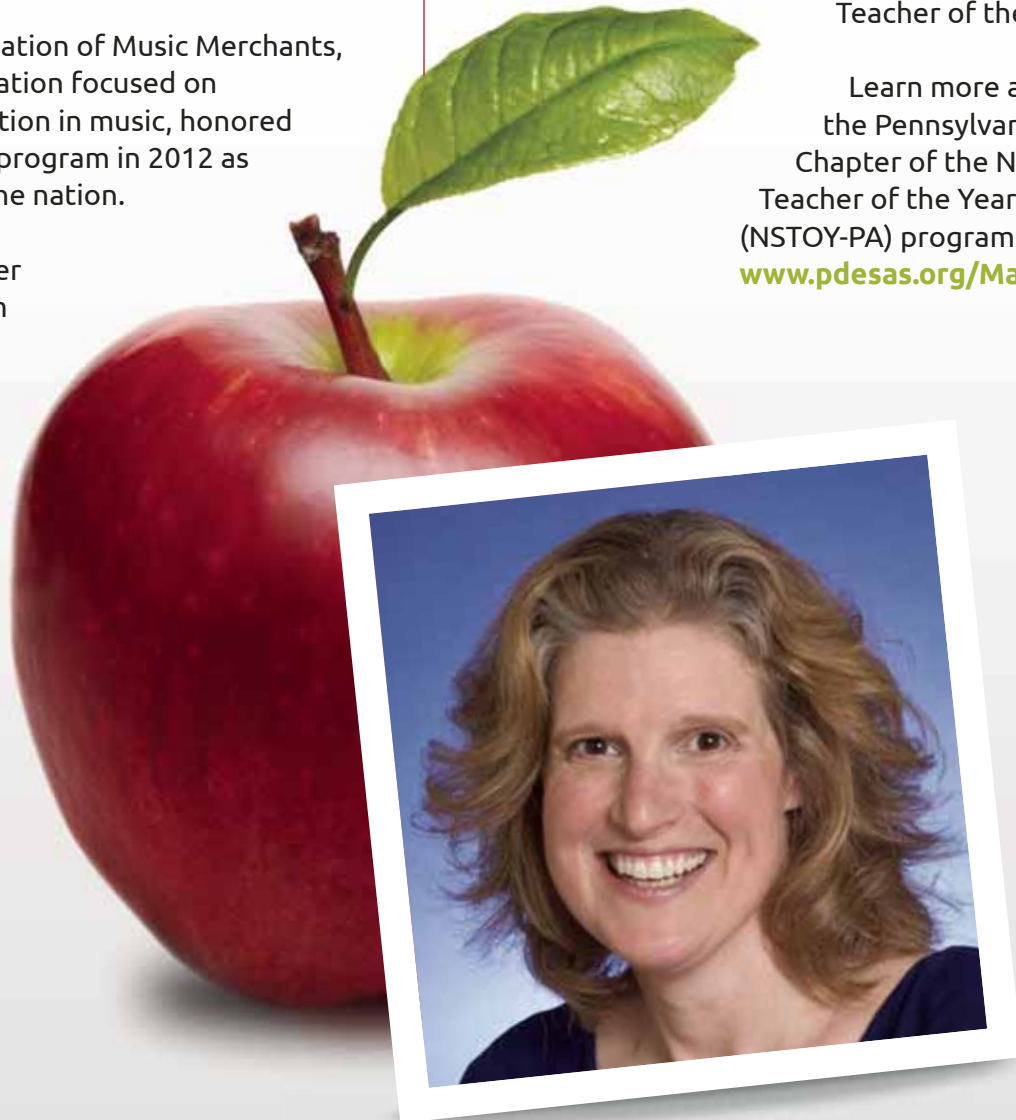
Fox Chapel music teacher Mairi Cooper was one of 15 finalists for the prestigious honor. She has taught for 14 years at Fox Chapel. Her courses include advanced placement music theory, orchestra, piano and world music, and she is chairwoman of the high school music department.

The National Association of Music Merchants, a nonprofit organization focused on advancing participation in music, honored the district's music program in 2012 as one of the best in the nation.

The National Teacher of the Year program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national

honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Teacher of the Year (NSTOY-PA) program began in 1995. NSTOY-PA works with PDE to support the program by providing services and materials to select and honor the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year.

Learn more about the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Teacher of the Year (NSTOY-PA) program at www.pdesas.org/Main/toy



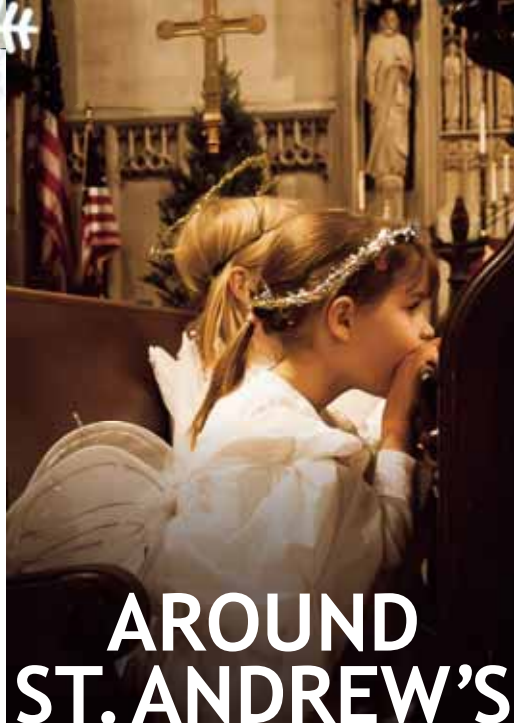
December and January, as we sail from Fall to Winter and from Old Year to New, and in the Church, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany - and through it all we would wish all our neighbors a season of blessing and renewal, healing and mercy, hope and joy.

We will have two services on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, with the 4:30 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion to include the Blessing of the Creche, familiar carols, and the Rector's Children's Sermon.

The traditional Midnight Choral Service of the Holy Communion begins by candlelight at 10:30 p.m. with a Prelude of Music for harp, organ, and Choir, featuring guest-artist Sierra Pastel, harp, and with the Holy Communion service beginning 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 Thursday, December 25, with a capella carols, followed by a Christmas Morning Coffee Hour.

Finally, on Wednesday evening, December 31, New Year's Eve, we'll gather at the Church at 11 p.m. for a brief organ recital presented by our Associate Organist, Ethan LaPlaca, followed by



AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

By Bruce Robison, Rector

a service of Holy Communion in the Chapel - and then we'll climb the tower and ring in New Year 2015 for the whole neighborhood on the Great Bell. A champagne (or non-alcoholic alternative) toast will follow in our elegantly renewed Brooks Hall!

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 or find some space for a family gathering too large for your living room, 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 at standrewspgh.org. We're always glad to hear from you, and to help if we can.



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

Give Local

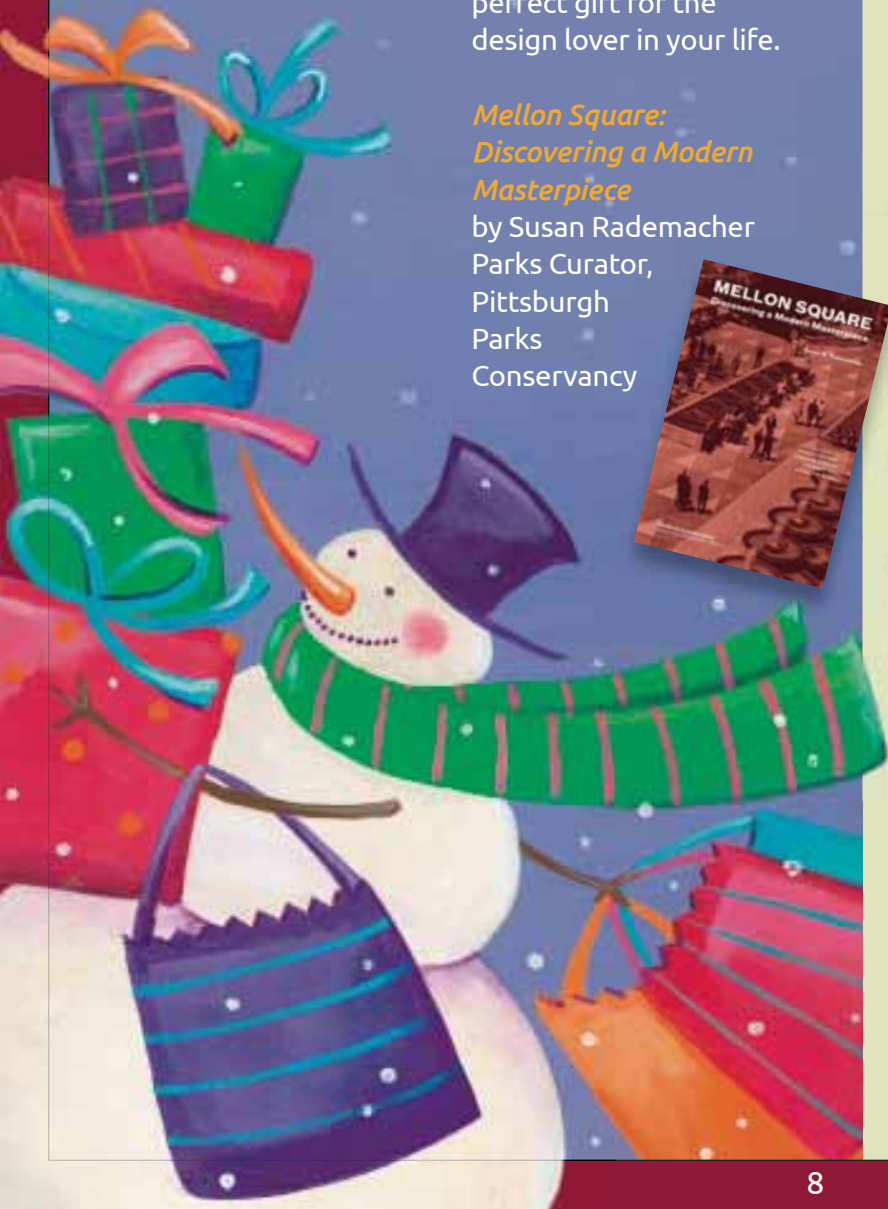
A reminder that many of our local businesses and restaurants offer gift certificates!

- E2 (Squared)
- Enrico's Tazza D'Oro Café & Espresso Bar
- Joseph Tambellini Restaurant
- Park Bruges Cafe
- Smiling Banana Leaf
- Union Project

One of our fellow Highland Parkers also has a new book out which might make the perfect gift for the design lover in your life.

*Mellon Square:
Discovering a Modern
Masterpiece*

by Susan Rademacher
Parks Curator,
Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy



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Zoning - Dell Ziegler (412) 363-0742

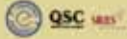


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