

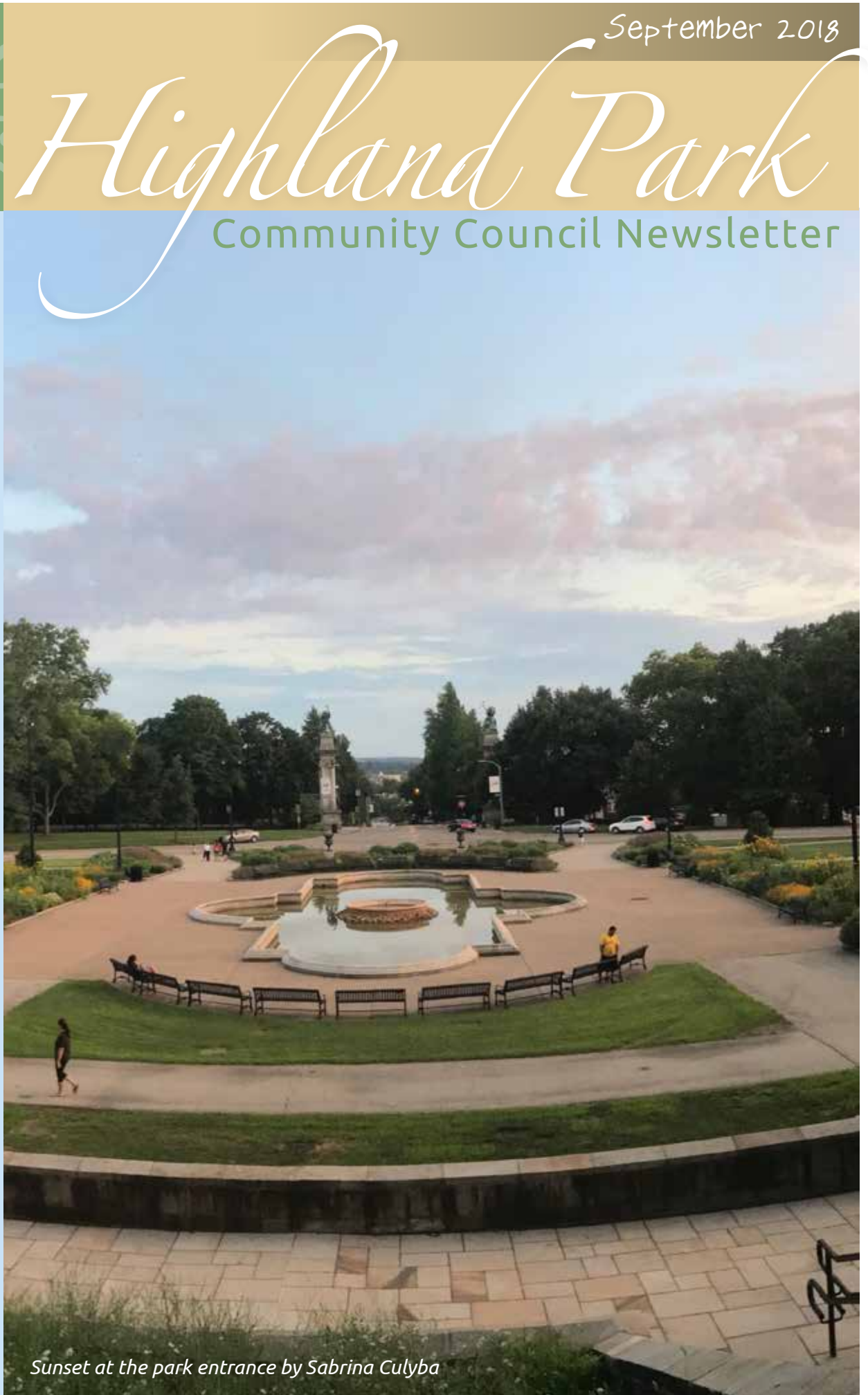
September 2018

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 A Letter from the President
- 3 August Meeting Minutes
- 5 Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Free Movie Night
- 6 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's "Greatest Saves" Bus Tour
- 7 Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse
- 8 Highland Park Nature Watch
- 11 Around St. Andrew's



Sunset at the park entrance by Sabrina Culyba

A Letter from the President

I want to say "Thank you!" to everyone in the neighborhood who joined us for another successful season full of HPCC events. Thank you to the many volunteers we needed this year for the house tour and to all who lent their support by purchasing tickets, and to those who signed up for the yard sale or simply hung out on the lawn on Sunday evenings for Reservoir of Jazz. We could not have done it without you!

The summer season is our busiest and I believe part of what helps set us apart from other neighborhoods in the city. We kicked things off with the House Tour featuring the King Estate, moved directly into the giant Yard Sale and Bryant Street festival, followed quickly by the Fourth of July Children's Parade and finished with five wonderful weekends of Reservoir of Jazz - all run by HPCC board members and volunteers.

Our next event is the Children's Halloween parade, which is one of my favorites. Kids of all ages (and some well-loved dogs) dress up in their costumes and parade around the fountain.

There are crafts and treats for the kids and smiles galore. If you have not seen it before, it is totally worth a stroll up to the park. Keep an eye out on the ListServ for the exact time and date.

Please also mark your calendars for the October HPCC meeting. I am aware of the concerns about traffic and public safety on some minds right now. There have been a number of posts on the ListServ and people have been reaching out to me directly. For the October meeting, we have reached out to Councilwoman Deb Gross and Karina Ricks, Director of Mobility and Infrastructure for the City of Pittsburgh, asking them to attend and take questions on traffic concerns in the neighborhood. I'm hoping they agree to come. I'll confirm the speakers via the ListServ as we get closer to the October 18th meeting.

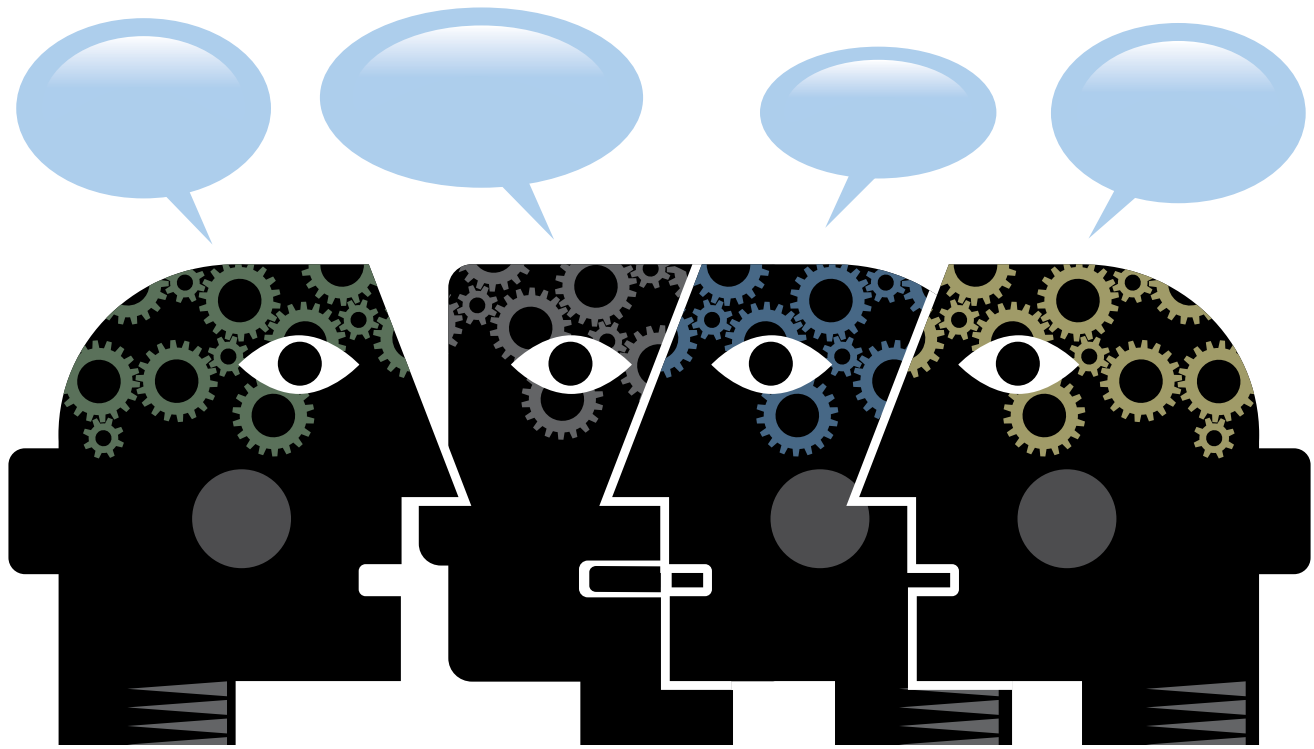
And for those of you who missed my response to the post about the fountain not working, the pump that feeds it expired and a new pump was purchased. It should be up and running in the next few weeks.

Until then, enjoy the cooler fall weather, the changing of the leaves and the smell of a roast in the oven.

Monica Watt
HPCC President



thank
YOU



HPCC August Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2018

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

Police Zone 5 Update – Sgt. Baker

Vehicle theft is a big issue in Highland Park. There will be officers patrolling overnight. If people see anyone suspicious out in the streets, especially in the early morning hours, they should call 911. Two kids were arrested this morning in Morningside trying to break into cars; they were checking door handles looking for unlocked cars. They were not from this area; they took a bus in. **Do not leave valuables in sight in your car and remember to lock your car doors.**

At the meeting, neighbors reported suspected drug activity on Collins, behind Dilworth. Sgt. Baker told people they should not engage people acting suspiciously; they should call 911 (for active behavior) or 311 (for general concerns). He said he would relay people's concerns to the Commander. Weekly updates from Zone 5 are available by email; if you're interested, contact Monica at monica.watt@elias-savion.com.

**Lisa Ceoffe, City Forester, Dept of Public Works
Alicia Carberry, Mayor's Office**

The July 4th microburst caused a lot of tree canopy loss in Highland Park: at least 25 large trees came down. If you lost a city tree, you can contact the City Forester's office and request a new one.

Highland Park has a lot of tree canopy, but it is aging out so it is time to be planting new trees. They encourage you to talk to your neighbors and consider various parts of the neighborhood. To request a new city tree through the TreeVitalize program, visit: <https://waterlandlife.org/trees/treevitalize-pittsburgh/apply-to-treevitalize/>. The deadline for the Spring 2019 planning is September 14. They are also looking for a neighborhood coordinator for the Spring 2019 planting. They also noted that we need people to plant trees on private property, especially trees that will grow larger.

The Forestry Division is doing many proactive things regarding the tree canopy. However, they have limited resources for pruning and trimming. There is a reimbursement program for sidewalk damage caused by tree roots. You can call the Forestry Division for an evaluation. You can also call the city Legal Department if there was damage to a vehicle from limbs falling from city trees.

Regarding the upcoming PWSA work near the park entrance: New pipes will be going in from near the main park entrance leading to the pump station near Reservoir 2. This project is still in the planning phase. The original plan was going to remove a number of trees, but they are working to adjust the plan to save and protect more trees. There will be future meetings about this plan and the impact on the neighborhood.

Concerns were raised about tree pruning by the utilities. The Forestry Division works with Duquesne Light. They are on the Shade Tree Commission, they consult on the approved tree list, and they communicate about pruning schedules. Unfortunately in many places, large trees were planted under utility lines. The utilities' main focus is protecting electric lines; pruning is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Trees are on a 2-, 4- or 6-year pruning cycle. The less frequently they prune, the more severe the pruning is. If you have an issue with pruning or another problem with street trees, you can contact the City Forester's office or 311 and they will send someone out to assess the problem, although after the summer storms, there is a backlog in addressing low-priority/low-liability issues.

Danielle Crumrine, Executive Director, TreePittsburgh

TreePittsburgh is recruiting tree tenders. To be a tree tender, you must take a day-long course that covers urban forestry practices, tree biology and health, proper planting, pruning, and maintenance, and instruction on how lead your community in organizing tree plantings and tree care events. Being a tree tender also qualifies you to do pruning in the neighborhoods; TreePittsburgh volunteers prune approximately 2,000 trees each year. The next course is on September 8. To sign up, visit <https://www.treepittsburgh.org/ways-to-give/volunteer/>.

On Oct 13th, they are giving away 500 trees at the Zoo, up to two trees per household. You must sign up in advance; please contact TreePittsburgh to do so. They will help you choose the right species and teach you how to plant it.

There is a new, 5-acre TreePittsburgh facility on the waterfront by the Fleming Bridge in Lawrenceville on a former industrial site. The site includes nurseries, greenhouses, an education center, offices, a workshop, and event space that can be rented on the riverfront - all LEED certified. They are also working to restore the riverfront there, having planted 400 trees already. It is a \$2.6 million project; \$2.2 million has been raised and they are still taking donations.

Additional Topics Discussed

If a car has been abandoned, and the registration and inspection stickers are over 90 days expired, they can be towed. Contact Monica at monica.watt@elias-savion.com. Highland Park has one of the highest rates of abandoned vehicles in the city; people bring them here and leave them.

There are concerns about speeding and erratic driving in the neighborhood. Monica forwarded concerns from the ListServ to the Commander of Zone 5 who said they would share it with the Traffic Division in hopes of doing some ticketing to raise awareness. Someone mentioned that the four-way intersection at the entrance to the park is a big problem, as is the intersection of Highland and Mellon. Those intersections will be closed for the PWSA project discussed above; that could be a good time to get the city to do something at these intersections.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Sept 20, 2018 at St. Andrews at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.





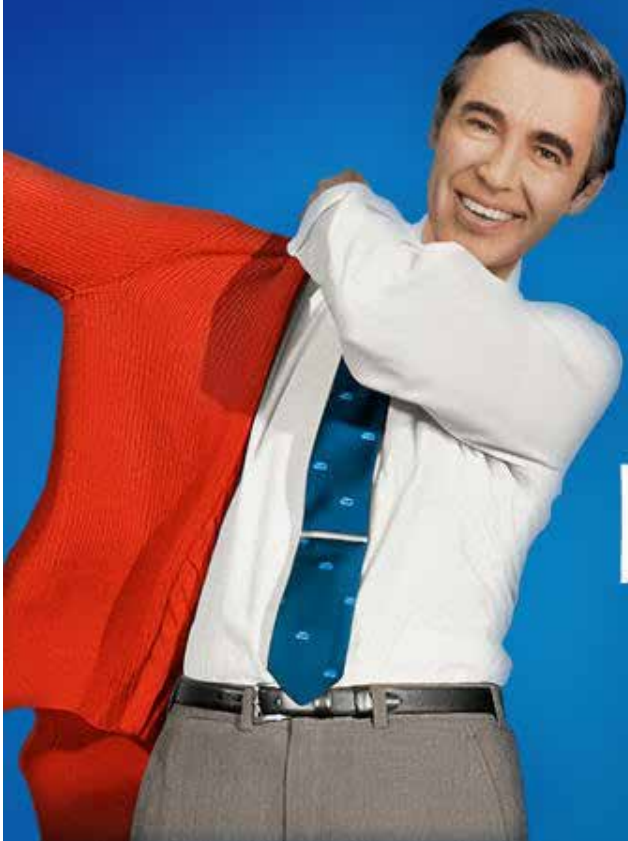
PITTSBURGH
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
UPCOMING EVENT

Friday, October 12, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**FREE
MOVIE
NIGHT**

Join your neighbors for a special, free showing of filmmaker Morgan Neville's documentary on the life and legacy of Fred Rogers '62. Come for this free night, complete with snacks and drinks!

A LITTLE KINDNESS MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.



WON'T YOU
BE MY
NEIGHBOR?

TAKE PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION'S

“GREATEST SAVES”

BUS TOUR

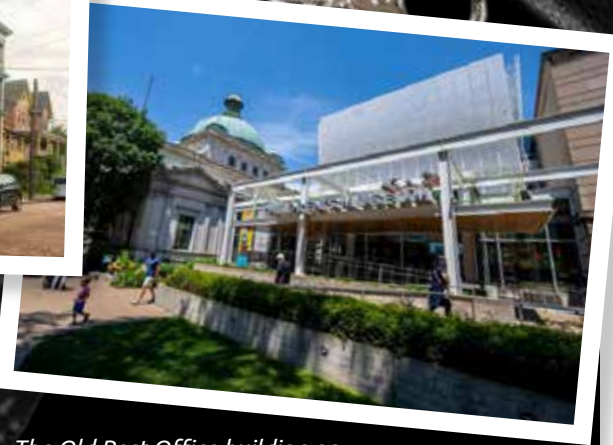
September 30 • 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Restored houses saved from blight on Jeanette Street in Wilkesburg, PA.



Restored houses on the Northside.



The Old Post Office building on the North Side, which now houses Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is one of the great saves.

Join PHLF for this full-day excursion in celebration of their 54th birthday on September 30. The day includes light refreshments at various locations, lunch and the opportunity to hear from PHLF staff, trustees and members about some of our organization's "Greatest Saves."

From Station Square, you'll cross the West End Bridge to explore PHLF's North Side roots, with stops in Manchester, the Mexican War Streets and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. Then you'll head east to Wilkesburg, where you'll stroll through the Hamnett Place neighborhood and visit the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center.

In Downtown Pittsburgh, you'll explore the Market Square area and the buildings they have developed, before returning to Station Square

for a celebratory toast at the Grand Concourse restaurant. En route, you'll see the positive impact of historic preservation throughout the region and enjoy the beauty of restored historic landmarks, neighborhoods and urban centers that contribute to the "livable" quality and unique character of our 21st-century city.

MEETING LOCATION: Commerce Drive, Station Square (Pittsburgh, PA 15219)
Ending location: The Landmarks Building (Grand Concourse), 100 W. Station Square Drive (Pittsburgh, PA 15219)

Advance paid reservations are required: marylu@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 527
Fee: \$75 for PHLF members; \$100 for non-members (includes a one-year complimentary membership in PHLF)
Registration is limited to 75 people (three buses).

PITTSBURGH CENTER FOR

CREATIVE REUSE

By Karin Manovich

Not sure what to do with those shopping bags you have been saving, or that drawer full of pens?

As the temperature gets cooler, make use of indoor time by rounding up the random items that you cannot bring yourself to throw away and consider donating them to Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse. They accept donations of all sorts of unexpected items and may be able to find a new home for your unwanted items.

Creative Reuse is a non-profit that inspires creativity, conservation and community engagement through reuse. They operate a non-traditional art supply shop in Point Breeze where people can donate used art and craft supplies, as well as shop for these unique items, all in the same location.

Many of the acceptable donations are not typically viewed as art supplies, but actually are and can be found in most of our homes. Examples: eye/sunglasses, keys, wine corks, wrapping paper/gift bags, used greeting cards, magazines, books, calendars, forks, spoons, photographs, wallpaper, vases, twisties, rubber bands, envelopes, folders and brown paper bags with handles--to name a few. The organization's web page provides a detailed donation guide at www.pccr.org.

Walk-in donations are limited to a single box per person any day of the week between 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. If you have more than one box, an appointment is necessary and can be made by phone or through their website.

A visit to the retail shop will reveal all sorts of interesting materials offered at affordable prices. The inventory is based on business and individual donations, so it changes every day. The Bulk Section is a unique part of the shop where you can fill up a small, medium, or large bag with materials for just \$3, \$6, or \$9. Popular with teachers, families, and creative people, the Bulk Section is a cost-effective way to get large quantities of materials for creative projects. The shop is open to the public every day from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Creative Reuse also provides many offsite and onsite programs for individuals and groups such as art parties, birthday parties, skill-based workshops (book-making, jewelry, hand-sewing and more), hands-on exploratory creative activities and professional development/ team building.

The organization relies on committed volunteers to accomplish their mission. Volunteers starting at age 10 can help in the shop accompanied by a parent. Anyone aged 16-18 can volunteer independently in the shop with the permission of a parent or guardian.

The store is located in the same building as Construction Junction and is open seven days a week. The entrance is around the corner on the side of the building if you park in the main parking lot.



PITTSBURGH CENTER
for CREATIVE REUSE

214 North Lexington Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412-473-0100
Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
www.pccr.org
[www.facebook.com/
creativereusepittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/creativereusepittsburgh)

HIGHLAND PARK

Nature Watch

By Richard Krepski

richard@vision-and-values.com



*Cooper's
Hawk*

HAWK TALK

Hawks often make dramatic appearances in the yards of Highland Park, sometimes only a sudden streak of brown followed by a cloud of feathers from some hapless victim. Two of the more common local hawks are the Cooper's, a type of bird hawk, and the Red-Tailed, one of the larger "buteos" or buzzard hawks. Cooper's Hawks have long tails and short, rounded wings. Red-Tailed Hawks have tails that spread like a hand of playing cards, and love to soar high in wide circles. Highland Park resident Molly Steffey describes their calls thusly: the Cooper's has a screechy kind of voice ("cak cak cak"), while the Red-Tailed is quiet when down low but once on a high glide has a descending sound of "kkkkkeeeerrrrr kerrrrr."

Janna E., who has been watching birds for more than fifty years, reports that the Sharp-Shinned Hawk is also common in the area. This bird is almost identical to the Cooper's, though somewhat smaller (14" max compared to 20" max for the Cooper's.) She also observed a Red-Tailed attempting to raid a neighbor's chicken coop a few years ago. Andrea M. has seen Broad-Winged Hawks in the neighborhood. These are small, chunky buteos, about the size of a crow, with white wing linings. Andrea also observed a hawk-like creature, charcoal with dark rusty-brown belly, devouring its lunch in her yard a while back. It was "almost frightening, truly prehistoric looking." I wonder if it might have been a Turkey Vulture, one of the "buzzards" that make their way to Hinckley, Ohio each spring.

*Red-Tailed
Hawk*



MONARCH UPDATE

As I write this in mid-August, Monarchs and yellow Swallowtails are fluttering through the neighborhood. Sabrina Culyba reports that a Monarch recently emerged from its chrysalis in her milkweed patch. It must be that all these butterflies are newborns. Good folks like Sabrina and Helen B. plant milkweed, the exclusive food of Monarch caterpillars, working to stabilize the Monarch population and helping Nature to bring more beauty into the neighborhood.



Monarch Butterfly Recently Emerged from Its Chrysalis, Photo by Sabrina Culyba

HOLLYWOOD FINCHES

Purple Finches seem to appear more and more frequently at neighborhood feeders these days. Or do they? A similar species, the House Finch, is actually more prevalent. How it got that way is an interesting tale. The House Finch is a native of the Western U.S. and was marketed as a pet

called the “Hollywood Finch” in the 1930s and 1940s. The Eastern population can supposedly be linked to the release of a single group of birds by a New York City pet shop in 1940.

The spread of the House Finch has been remarkable. Its year-round range now extends out to the Great Plains, almost reaching its native habitat in the West. I think that the success of this species may relate to its period of captivity, when the birds became used to eating from feeders in their cages. House Finches are certainly not timid at outdoor feeders, but park themselves and really chow down. (Contrast this to the Chickadee, who stealthily takes one seed at a time and zips away to eat it in safety.) True Purple Finches are more likely to be seen around here in the winter. Their summer range extends through the Laurel Highlands but barely reaches Pittsburgh. So, if you see a reddish sparrow-like bird in the summer, it’s likely a House Finch.

Highland Park resident Judy Lesso has provided a great photo of a male House Finch and its sparrow-like mate. (Judy also contributed the shot of the Flicker in July’s column.) Note the strawberry color, whereas the Purple Finch has been described as “a sparrow dipped in raspberry juice.” The breast area of the Purple Finch is completely

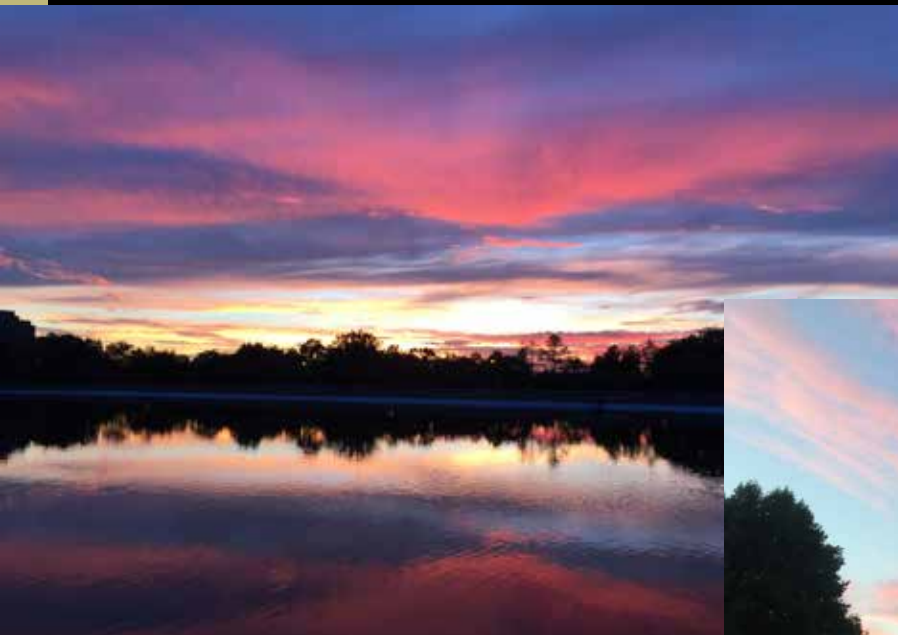


Purple Finch

colored, while that of the House Finch has dark striations. Another identifier—the House Finch has a curved upper beak, while the beak of the Purple Finch is more cone-shaped. However, the Penn State bird site indicates that these two species can interbreed, so there may be a spectrum of appearance variations. Whatever you call them, enjoy these colorful visitors to your yard.



Male and Female House Finches, Copyright by Judy Lesso



Sunset at Reservoir,
by Josephine Theal.

Sunset at Reservoir, by Edith Bell



PREDICTING BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS

There are few things more relaxing and pleasurable than watching a magnificent sunset—sky-blue pink shifting to orange/red afterglow. You can't help but shut down the chatter of your brain and just become part of it all. Wouldn't it be nice to know in advance when there's a high probability of a spectacular sunset? Actually, you can!

Three Penn State trained meteorologists have developed the website Sunsetwx.com, which provides daily maps showing probabilities of beautiful sunsets and sunrises. (The sunset forecast is posted at 1:00 p.m.) There are also apps like Skyfire and SkyCandy that provide personal alerts.

Factors favoring a beautiful sunset include 30-70% cloud cover with high to mid-level clouds, low humidity, clean air after a rain and calm winds. If you notice these things in the late afternoon, check out sunsetwx.com. If the map shows Pittsburgh in red, uncork a bottle of wine or brew a pot of tea, find a spot with a good view and sit back and watch the show.

A RECOLLECTION: A gang of English Sparrows was raising a ruckus while hiding deep in our large thorn bush. Then I saw the reason—a Bird Hawk (Cooper's or Sharp-Shinned) perched on a nearby fence, giving them the evil eye. The sparrows were probably just expressing their agitation or sounding a warning, but I like to imagine that they were hurling Cockney-accented insults at their nemesis—"Your mother was a Turkey Vulture! Why don't you go pick on some bloody day-old road-kill?"

A RECOMMENDATION: Wouldn't it be cool if the local TV meteorologists would include beautiful sunsets in their forecasts?

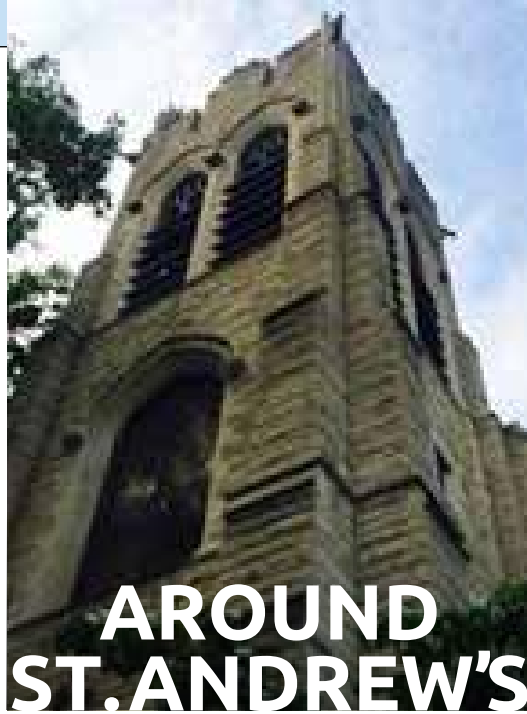
Our neighborhood is blessed with a great deal of natural beauty. Send your observations regarding unusual birds and other aspects of the "wild side" of Highland Park to my email on the previous page — I'll edit and compile them for this monthly newsletter. Your photos would be most welcome. No names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

Summer fades away in Western Pennsylvania, our Steelers and Penguins open their new seasons, and the store decorations are beginning to turn Pumpkin-orange, with all the excitement of Halloween costumes and candy soon to be upon us! In so many ways, "a new year," and with that a word of friendship and blessing to all in the neighborhood.

Sunday, September 9th, was "Round Up Sunday" at St. Andrew's -- a great fall gathering of our congregational family and friends as the quieter summer schedule came to an end and our regular service schedule resumed, with Church School and Adult Sunday morning programs. Please call the Church Office at 412-661-1245 or check our www.standrewspgh.org website for details. Parents interested in our Church School and Youth programs are invited to contact our Church School Director Brandon Cooper at churchschool@standrewspgh.org. All interested in our Parish Choir and Music Program should contact our Organist and Choirmaster (and Highland Park'er) Peter Luley, at peterluley@aol.com. Or just call the Church Office for more information.

Movie Fans take note: Friday evening, October 5, will be the next "First Friday" Family Movie Night, and on the screen that evening will be the 2017 Dreamworks animated hit, "Boss Baby." All are welcome. The evening begins with pizza at 6 p.m. downstairs in Barley Hall -- and please feel free to bring movie snacks to enjoy and share! (And to note on the side that children and youth moviegoers are always to be "accompanied" by an adult.)

Our regular service schedule this fall also includes a monthly service of Choral Evensong--a beautiful and meaningful offering in the rich tradition of historic Anglican worship. On the "First Thursday" of each month at 8 p.m. the Parish Choir sings Evensong, and the service is followed by a featured Musical Recital and festive dessert reception. 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, when our featured recitalist will be Pittsburgh pianist Linda Morgan Ellison.



By Bruce Robison, Rector

Looking down the page on the calendar just a little ways -- and continuing a great tradition both in the parish and the wider neighborhood, Friday October 26th (8 p.m.) will feature the 21st Annual St. Andrew's Lecture. This year we welcome as our "Lecturer" our good friend and Highland Park neighbor Sloane Davidson, founder and Executive Director of "Hello Neighbor," a creative and highly-regarded outreach to our city's refugee and immigrant community.

"Hello Neighbor" has been featured in local media (like this recent segment of KDKA's "Pittsburgh Today Live,"

<https://www.facebook.com/helloneighborhq/videos/241027703257335/>) and in the national press (see this piece in the New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/your-money/how-to-help-refugees-in-us.html> and this segment of Lester Holt's NBC Evening News <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1AHEBbE14w>). A timely topic indeed, as global issues related to the refugee crisis and debates in the U.S. about immigration policy are frequently center stage. The lecture is free and open to the public. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us!

St. Andrew's has been on the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue, at the heart of the Highland Park neighborhood, for more than 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 need to find some space for a meeting or family gathering, or to borrow a few chairs: we'll be glad to help if we can. Again, feel free to call us at 412-661-1245, "like" us on Facebook, and check us out 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

KITCHEN NOW OPEN!



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

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OLEA – Todd Shirley

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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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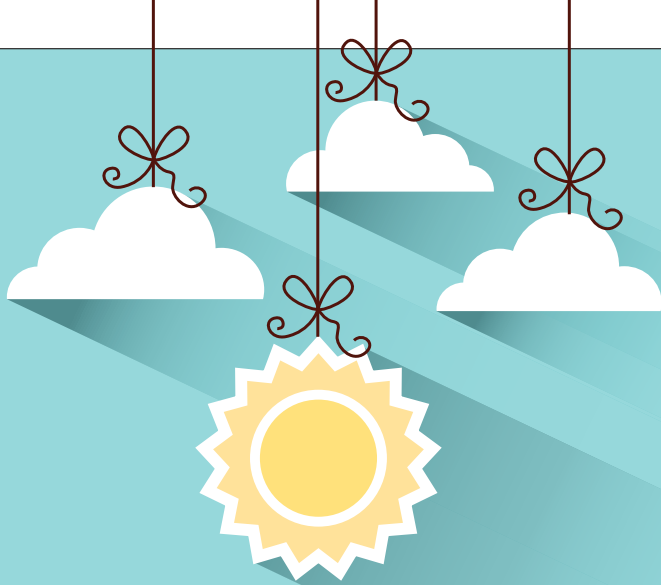
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