

October 2015

# Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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**Trick-or-Treating  
in Highland Park  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, October 31**

# A Letter from the President

**F**or those of you who could not attend the HPCC meeting last week, I wanted to tell you a little bit about what you missed. HPCC VP Dave Atkinson set-up an education panel with Senator Randy Vulakovich who discussed the PA State budget impasse and its effect on our public schools and

Graham Mulqueen from A+ Schools explained the new challenges schools and parents face with the implementation of the Common Core testing and its impact on Pennsylvania System School Assessment (PSSA) scores.



*Senator  
Randy  
Vulakovich*

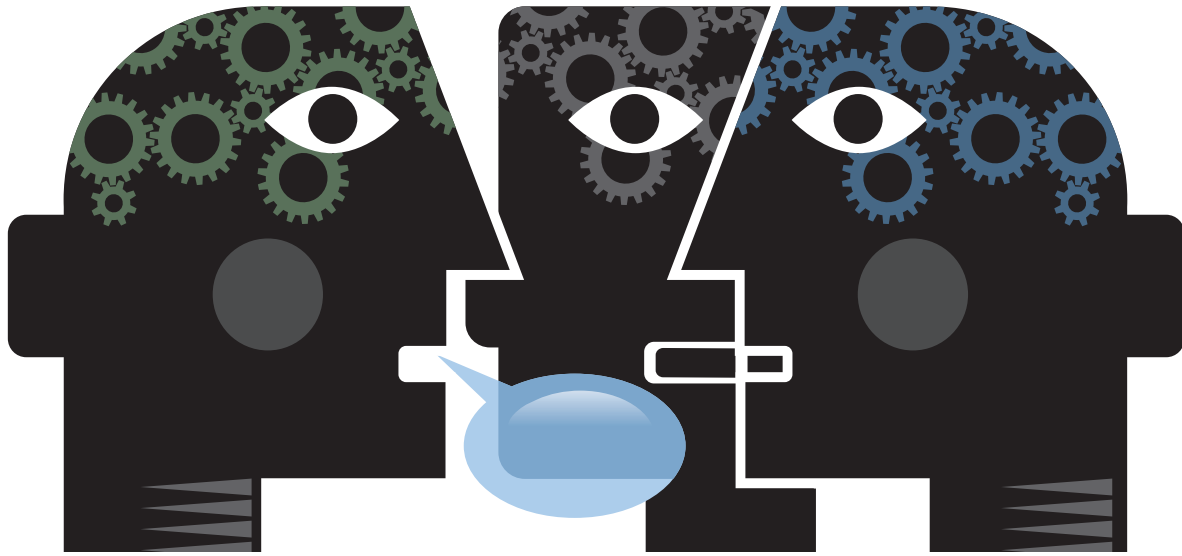
The state budget for fiscal 2016, which began on July 1, is over 100 days late, leaving in limbo Pennsylvania's social service agencies and school districts that rely heavily on state aid. Senator Vulakovich gave us a firsthand account of this year's budget process including two budget vetoes by the Governor. Many schools in both the public and state systems are being impacted. Many local non-profits are also feeling the impact, left having to take out emergency loans in order to continue to serve our at-risk population. Having him available to answer our questions was beneficial.

We were also honored to have Mairi Cooper, the 2015 PA Teacher of the Year and fellow Highland Parker, with us to add to the conversation by discussing the inequities in our current education funding structure that is based on local tax efforts vs. a more fair distribution formula.

Vernon Simmons, past HPCC board member, brought up the injustice between the amount of money we spend on incarceration vs. education. NAACP research shows that matching zip codes to high rates of incarceration also reveals where low-performing schools, as measured by math proficiency, tend to cluster. The lowest-performing schools tend to be in the areas where incarceration rates are the highest. Imagine the future if we spent the cost to incarcerate an inmate in Pennsylvania – over \$42,000, with the cost we spend to educate a child - \$13,864\*.

**Monica Watt**  
*HPCC President*

*\*Based on 2013 figures*



# HPCC September Meeting Minutes

Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. with a quorum present.

Acting Commander Lt. English and the Community Resource Officers from Zone 5 reviewed the crime statistics for the past month and answered questions.

This is the Annual Meeting when we elect new board members. 3 Directors whose terms have expired: Christine Adams, Janine Seales and Vernon Simmons. Elections were held to fill the Officer (1-year term) and 3 Director (3-year term) positions. Nominations were held at the August meeting. The following slate of candidates were elected:

- President: Monica Watt
- Vice President: David Atkinson
- Treasurer: Paul Miller
- Secretary: Bob Staresinic
- Directors: Jessica Bowser, Scott Dietrich (Class of 2018) and Todd Shirley

Deb Gross, City Council Representative and PWSA board member, spoke about current issues for the district. The off-lease exercise area for dogs is under construction across from the swimming pool, with site preparation being done. Requests for street paving should be sent to Deb's office or to 311. A resident reported that Highland Avenue north of Bryant Street does not get cleaned on the street cleaning schedule. Deb spoke about the storm water run-off issue and ALCOSAN's plans for updating the wastewater system in the county. There are pedestrian and bike issues to be resolved, but only one traffic engineer for the City to deal with them. Deb has requested that a second be hired.

David Hance, HPCDC President, spoke about the Bryant Street Phase Two project which is still under construction. There have been contractor issues, but the residential units are ready to be rented and there are commercial tenants interested in the first floor retail space.

The individual HPCC committees reported on what activities they have been working on over the past year, and plans for the coming year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, November 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrews Church.





This year,  
the City of  
Pittsburgh's official trick-or-treating  
hours are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
on Saturday, October 31, 2015

## HPCC Halloween Costume Parade

Saturday, October 31st, 10:30 a.m. – Noon  
The Entrance Fountain in Highland Park

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

# Halloween Happenings

## Discover what goes BUMP in the night in Frick Park

October 23rd & 24th  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Lower Frick Park

Bump in the Night is an annual family fun event celebrating fall. Children and their adults are invited to Frick Park for an evening of non-spooky activities that they can do together. Take a night hike; see and learn about nocturnal animals; carve a pumpkin; join a sing-a-long; and much more! Top off the night with refreshments and cookies before you head home with your carved pumpkin. This event is intended for kids ages three to nine and their adults.

## ZooBoo

October 24th & 25th  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Prowl through the Zoo collecting sweet treats while enjoying the animal exhibits; take a tour of our not-so-spooky haunted houses; conjure up an eerie ensemble for our children's costume contest and parade; and create a creepy craft during this fa-boo-lously fun fall event. All activities are free and included with general admission. Costumes not required. Help us to Go Green for Halloween by bringing your own trick-or-treat bag.

## Owl-O-Ween at the National Aviary

October 24th & 31st

The National Aviary celebrates Halloween at its annual free (with admission) Owl-O-Ween event, where kids can visit with nocturnal birds, learn about creepy-crawly insects and trick or treat from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Also, a new offering this year is an all-ages Owl Pellet class following Owl-O-Ween each day for \$5. Advanced registration for Owl Pellet class is requested by calling 412-258-944.

## Creepy Crawly Carnegie Days at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History

October 24th & 25th

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History celebrates Halloween at its Creepy Crawly Carnegie Days event from noon to 4 p.m. Kids can go trick-or-treating through the exhibits, hear spooky tales from around the world and learn about creepy creatures. Also, if they come dressed in costume, they will receive a small prize. All activities included in the price of admission. No masks or backpacks.

# Halloween Happenings

*Continued*

## Boo To You Too! at the Children's Museum

October 30th

The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh is hosting a sensory-friendly Halloween party featuring trick-or-treating through the museum, Halloween crafts, DIY face-painting and more. Advance reservations required. Ticket price is \$9.

## Halloween Happenings at Phipps Conservatory

October 30th

Phipps Conservatory celebrates Halloween at its annual Halloween Happenings event, where kids can trick-or-treat through the Conservatory, collect healthy snacks and participate in kid-friendly activities throughout. Also, Halloween Happenings is a fantastic time to explore the very short Fall Flower Show at Phipps. Activities take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and are included in the price of admission.



# How to Carve a Pumpkin

## Equipment

- Brown paper grocery bags, newsprint, or butcher paper
- Sharpie or other permanent marker
- Pumpkin carving kit (including a scraper, carving knife, and a wire modeling tool)
- Two medium bowls (one for seeds, one for pumpkin guts)
- Kitchen towel
- Tea light candle and long match or lighter with extended nozzle

## Instructions

**1.** **Set up your workspace:** Line a sturdy table with flattened grocery bags, newsprint, or butcher paper. Have your permanent marker, carving tools, and bowls nearby.



**2.** **Draw your design:** After you've determined the best side of your pumpkin for a face, use the permanent marker to sketch out eyes, a nose, and a toothy grin.

**Draw your lid:** Outline a circular lid around the pumpkin stem, about 5 to 6 inches in diameter. Add a notch in the back if you like — this makes it easier to line up.

**3.** **Cut out the pumpkin lid:** With a slim pumpkin carving knife (the carving tool with a toothed blade like a mini-saw), cut along the outline of your pumpkin lid. Make sure you slice through the pumpkin at a 45-degree inward angle, so you'll be able to replace the lid without it falling in.





**4. Remove the pumpkin seeds:** The seeds are all attached to the pumpkin and each other by thin strings. Grab the big bunches of seeds with your hands and place them in one of the bowls, to be cleaned later.

**Scoop out the insides of the pumpkin:** Using the scraper that came with your kit (or a metal spoon if you don't have this tool), clean out the inside of the pumpkin until no stringy bits remain. Discard the pumpkin guts in the second bowl.

**Wipe off the pumpkin:** Use the kitchen towel to wipe off the outside of the pumpkin so that it will be easier and safer to carve.



**5. Cut out the design:** Make straight cuts into your pumpkin along the lines of your design, removing the pieces and discarding them in the refuse bowl.



**6. Clean up with the wire carving tool:** Go back in and scrape out any stringy pieces or jagged lines with the wire tool from your carving kit. You can also scrape off the marker lines while you're at it, though they won't be visible in the darkness of night.



**7. Light your pumpkin:** Insert a tea light candle in the bottom of your pumpkin and place the lid on top. Use a long match or lighter, inserted through the Jack O'Lantern mouth, to light the candle.

**Bonus Step:** Make roasted pumpkin seeds! Clean and dry the pumpkin seeds, then toss with oil, salt, and any desired seasonings, and roast in a low oven 'til golden brown. For more specific instructions see last year's October HPCPC newsletter article on [hpcpg.org](http://hpcpg.org).





# Guided Tours of Historic Oakmont Country Club

**Mondays, from 9:00 a.m. — 10:30 a.m.**  
October 26th, November 9th & 23rd

Explore this National Historic Landmark golf course and clubhouse that has hosted twenty-one national championships featuring eight U.S. Open Championships since its opening in 1903. (June 2016 will be a record ninth U.S. Open for Oakmont Country Club.) The Country Club is located at 1233 Hulton Road, Oakmont, PA, 15139.

Tour participants will be escorted by a golf historian through the handsomely-preserved 112-year-old clubhouse and view a wealth of architectural features, historic photographs, memorabilia, early 1900s golf equipment, championship trophies, and the original men's locker room.

Weather permitting, participants will also tour the legendary "inland links" golf course and see firsthand the extraordinary vistas, narrow fairways, iconic "church pews," and some of the other 200-plus sculpted sand bunkers.

At the conclusion of the tour, participants may test their putting skills on one of the world-famous Oakmont putting surfaces and browse through the selection of apparel and equipment in the renowned Golf Shop.

There is a \$10 donation to The Fownes Foundation per participant. Children under 16, seniors over 65, and active duty/retired military are admitted free. Advance reservations required; limit of ten individuals per tour.

For reservations and further information, contact Oakmont Country Club (412-828-8000) or [jlucas@oakmont-countryclub.org](mailto:jlucas@oakmont-countryclub.org)

## Additional details:

- Please arrive at Oakmont Country Club by 8:45 a.m.
- Casual attire (no jeans or denim please) and comfortable walking shoes with flat sole. Coat or jacket depending on weather forecast. Umbrellas will be provided.
- Disabled access available.
- Photography is permitted.

*Tours are sponsored by the Fownes Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of nationally recognized, historically significant golf sites.*



# 2016 Love Your Block Grant Applications are Available

*By Lex Janes*

The Office of Community Affairs would like to announce that applications are available for the City's 2016 Love Your Block grant award program. The block revitalization program gives organizations up to \$1,000 in funds and for a neighborhood block improvement project that mobilizes community volunteers. Projects will be implemented from April 1 to June 30, 2016. Applications are available online at [www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock).

Along with the mini-grant, selected groups will also receive support from City departments through services such as trash collection and graffiti removal to support their projects, as feasible. A full list of available City services can be found in the **Love Your Block application**.

Applicants for the 2016 program must be a qualified nonprofit organization or have the support of a nonprofit fiscal agent, and the impacted area must be within City limits. Applications must be received no later than **5 p.m. on November 2, 2015**; late applications will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified of their status by December 15, 2015. A mandatory grantee orientation will take place in January 2016.

In addition to receiving up to \$1,000 in funds, all qualifying groups are eligible for an additional award. The best block revitalization project will receive an additional \$2,000 for future block enhancements based upon judgment criteria listed in the application details.

For more information go to [www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock/grant](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock/grant).



**T**here's a lot going on around Old St. Andrew's this fall, as all that construction and the long work of facility renovations in the past couple of years now so wonderfully provide enhanced accessibility and expanded resources for the parish and the neighborhood.

October and November are traditionally the season of the St. Andrew's Lecture, and on Friday the 9th of October this year we were delighted to welcome the Rev. Dr. David Esterline, new President of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as our featured speaker. He and his wife, the Rev. Jane Esterline, have come from long experience in the "foreign mission field" around the world to join us here in Highland Park, and it was fun to hear their story.

On All Saints Day at St. Andrew's our 11 a.m. service is an orchestral, choral service of the Holy Communion, with the Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra, this year under the direction of Ethan LaPlaca, and our St. Andrew's Choir, offering the *Missa Brevis* in G Major, by Franz Schubert, in the course of the service. On Thursday evening, November 5, at 8 p.m., our observance of the Octave of All Saints continues with Choral



## AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

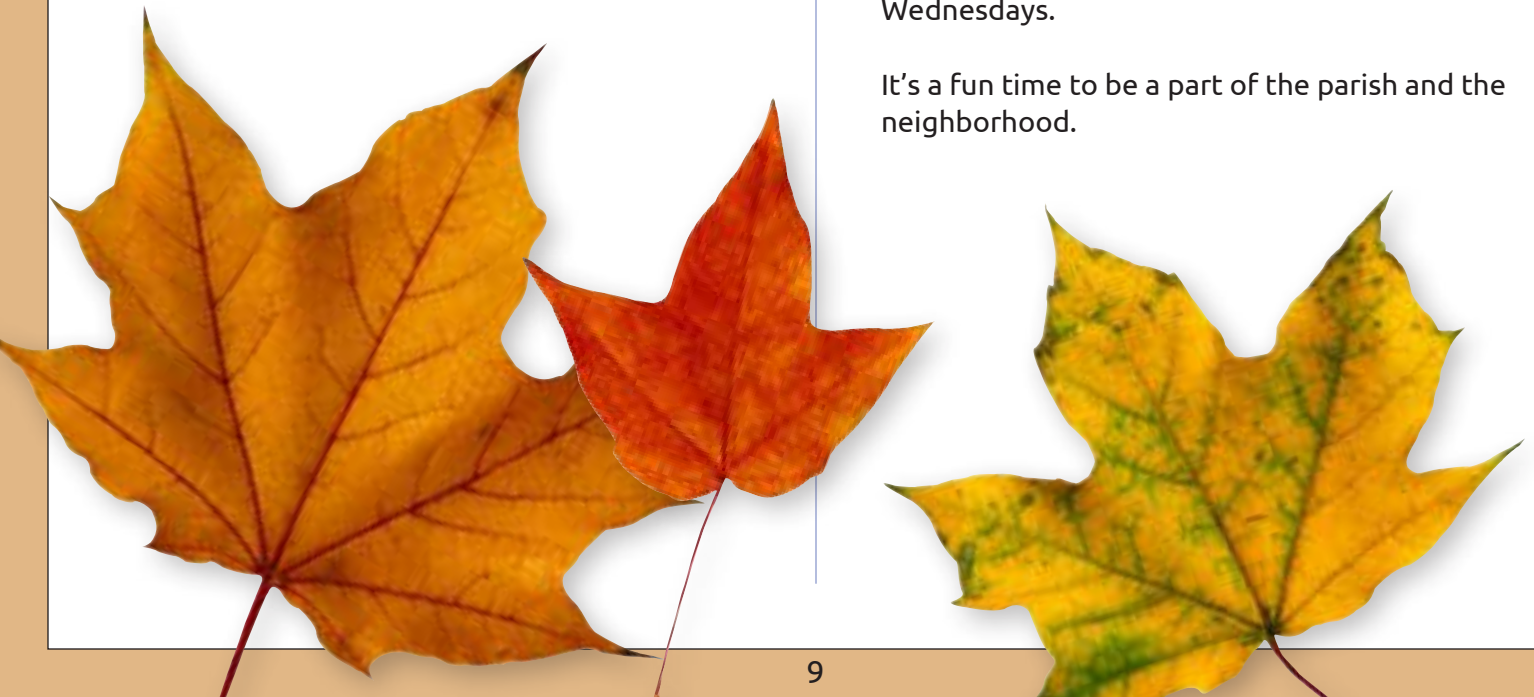
*By Bruce Robison, Rector*

Evensong, sung by the Parish Choir, and followed by a piano recital with Bryant Matheu and then a festive dessert reception.

And we'll all of course keep our ears tuned for the arrival of the Syria Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band as they join us and fill the neighborhood with the glories of Scotland Pipes on November 22, as we observe our Patronal Festival, St. Andrew's Day!

On all Sunday mornings at St. Andrew's services continue at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., with programs for all ages in the "hour between," beginning at 9:45 a.m., and with midweek service at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays.

It's a fun time to be a part of the parish and the neighborhood.



# AROUND ST.ANDREW'S

*Continued*

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. Call us at 412 661-1245, check us out on the web at [www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org), and "Like" us on Facebook (search for "St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park.>").



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
5801 Hampton Street  
Highland Park, Pittsburgh  
412-661-1245  
[www.standrewspgh.org](http://www.standrewspgh.org)

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

## HPCC Officers

### President

Monica Watt (412) 980-4208

### Vice President

Dave Atkinson

### Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

### Secretary

Bob Staresinic (412) 441-8972

## HPCC Directors

Kelly Vitti

Jake Pawlak

James McAdams

Amber Quick

Janine Seale

Christine Adams

Jessica Bowser

Scott Dietrich

Todd Shirley

## HPCC Committees

**Beautification** – Nancy Levine

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

**Education** – Dave Atkinson

**House Tour** –

[housetour@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:housetour@highlandparkpa.com)

**Finance** – Glen Schultz

**Membership** – Kelly Meade (412) 362-0331  
[membership@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:membership@highlandparkpa.com)

**Newsletter** – Monica Watt (412) 980-4208  
[editor@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:editor@highlandparkpa.com)

**Nominating** – Bob Staresinic  
(412) 441-8972

**Public Safety** –

Lynn Banker-Burns (412) 361-8863  
[public-safety@highlandparkpa.com](mailto:public-safety@highlandparkpa.com)

**Reservoir of Jazz** – Tania Grubbs

**Super Playground** –

Monica Watt (412) 980-4208 &  
Vernon Simmons (412) 661-1366

**Yard Sale** – Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

**Welcoming** – Todd Shirley

**Zoning** – Jake Pawlak





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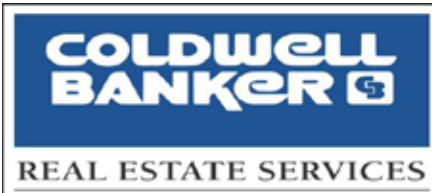
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**We Get Homes Sold!  
 2 Heads are Better than 1  
 Contact Us...We Are Available!!**

