

September 2016

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1 A Letter from the President
- 2 August Meeting Minutes
- 3 Destination Highland Park: Gallery Ama
- 5 Congratulations to the Highland Park Swim Team
- 6 Doors Open Pittsburgh Free Event
- 7 Sunnyside & Fulton School Tours Planned
- 8 PICT Classic Theatre Sets-up House at Union Project
- 9 Around St. Andrew's
- 10 Free RAD Day at Pittsburgh Zoo



A Letter from the President

I have started this article a number of different times and surprisingly am having trouble writing it. I have been president of the HPCC for the last four years, which means I have written the Letter from the President article 39 times already and have never had this issue. I guess this one is challenging because it is my last one.

After three years as a board member, three years as vice president and four years as president, I have decided to step down and give some younger leaders a chance to make a difference in the neighborhood we love. I will still be a board member for two more years and will remain on a number of committees with long-term projects underway.

I would not have stepped down if I did not have complete confidence in the newly elected president, Jake Pawlak. He has been a board member for the last three years and is well-versed in city and state government. I have worked with him for the last few years as part of the HPCC Zoning Committee, along with Scott Dietrich, the new HPCC vice president. Both Jake and Scott are smart and capable and I am looking forward to seeing what new ideas they bring to the table.

Alas, I am not the only person stepping down this month. I would like to thank Dave Atkinson, who has been my vice president for my whole term. As a board member with small children, he naturally became very interested in education and has worked tirelessly to promote our local schools and act as a liaison with Pittsburgh's school board. And years ago, when we wanted to build a new website and start a Facebook page, he volunteered to take on the projects and still manages them today.

Kelly Vitti is also rotating off the board this month after another three-year term. Kelly has long been involved in the neighborhood in many capacities. From her original position as HPCC treasurer 16 years ago to Bryant Street Festival organizer, she has donated countless hours and seemingly limitless energy to keep Highland Park on the right track.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Bob Staresinic for all of his ongoing service to the community. He is leaving the board after more than 20 years of dedicated service, including his roles as president, vice president, board member and more recently, secretary. I first met Bob in 1997 when he came to my front door and dropped off a welcome bag from the HPCC. He was friendly and kind and I vividly recall walking back in the house in sheer amazement while telling my husband someone just officially welcomed us to the neighborhood. That simple act made me a lifelong supporter of the HPCC, and a fan of Bob.

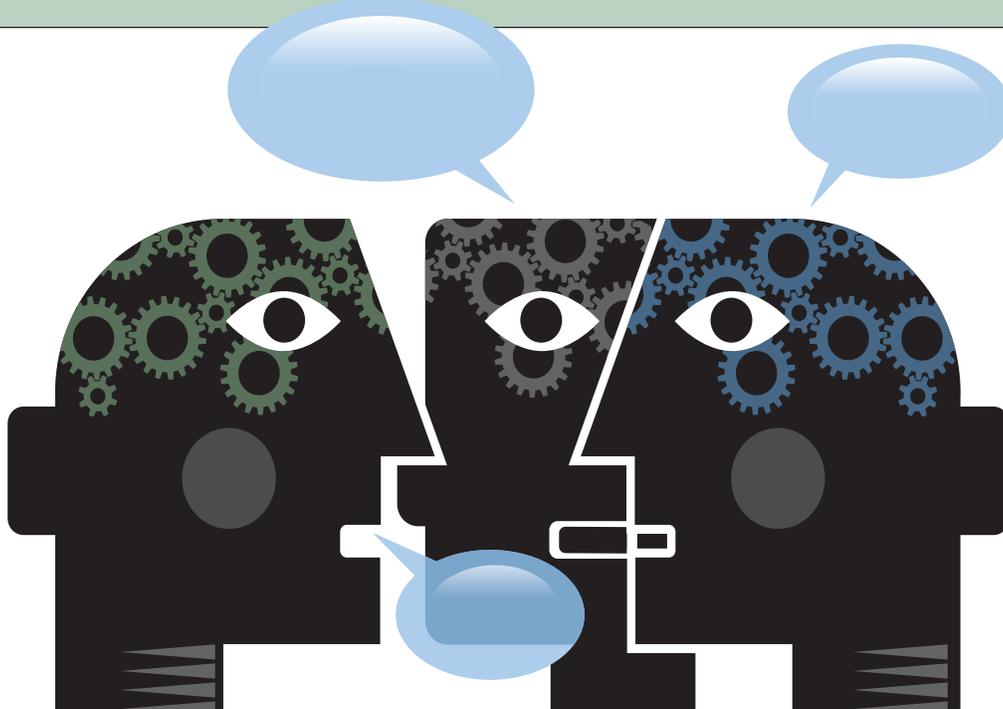


We just completed another busy spring/summer full of HPCC events for the entire neighborhood (and beyond) to enjoy. You will soon be seeing a membership postcard in the mail reminding you to renew your HPCC membership. Please do so. Everything we do is made possible by your membership dues and donations. And it is easy to renew or join online at www.hpccpgh.org.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has made my time as HPCC president a delightful endeavor.

Monica Watt
HPCC President





HPCC August Meeting Minutes

Monica Watt, HPCC President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm with a quorum present.

Jason Lando, Zone 5 Commander, reported on recent crime activity in the zone. He reminded everyone to keep their homes and autos locked, as most of the recent crime is thefts of opportunity when items are unsecured. Commander Lando updated the group on a recent robbery on Bryant Street, where a man walking his dog was shot after refusing to turn over his wallet. The commander recommended complying with the actors' requests, especially when confronted with a gun, and to get a good description to report to 911.

Todd Shirley announced the Off-Leash Exercise Area's grand opening on September 11th. There will be folks there to provide chips, vaccinations and nail clippings, and the event is open to all cats and dogs.

Corey Buckner from the Mayor's Office let the group know about upcoming opportunities in joining an LGBT advisory group, applying

for the Citizens Police Academy, and getting involved in neighborhood/block watches.

Karen Manovich was nominated for a position as a Director on the HPCC Board. Elections will be held at the September 15th meeting.

Erin Potts spoke to the group about the bike share program in the City. These are the solar-powered bike stations where individuals can rent a bicycle located in 12 neighborhoods. They are looking to expand and would like feedback on where additional stations can be located.

Jessica Bowser Acrie, Career Advisor at Carnegie-Mellon University (and HPCC Director) gave a presentation about LinkedIn and how it can be best used.

Jake Pawlak spoke about the proposed amendments/updates to the HPCC bylaws, which will be voted on at the September 15th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The next HPCC meeting is Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7 p.m., at St Andrews Church, 5801 Hampton Street.



Destination Highland Park

Gallery Ama

By Karin Manovich

A sandwich board sign on Bryant St. has been luring brunch-goers into a nearby alley this summer. On Millbrae Way, a five-bay garage has been brilliantly transformed into a spectacular little shop of reclaimed furnishings - Gallery Ama.

Highland Park neighbor Mary Beth Van Fleet opened the Gallery Ama earlier this summer to showcase and sell home furnishings that she has restored.

A retired nurse, Van Fleet purchased the garage two years ago and began the process of turning it into a multi-use facility. Three bays comprise the shop, while one bay is used as a workshop and the other as storage.

Van Fleet has always been artistic and a DIY fixer-upper. Her collection of tables, dressers, chairs, coffee tables, and decorative items are stunning and inspiring. She repairs, embellishes, primes and paints furniture and frequently adds decoupage to create unique looks. Map-topped bar stools and a sheet music adorned dresser are examples of practical items turned into art that can be found in the shop. Van Fleet also free hand paints scenes and images on furnishings.



Mary Beth
Van Fleet

“ *The shop is not an antique store, not a junk shop, and not an art gallery,* ”

says Van Fleet.

“ *I came up with the name of Gallery Ama in an attempt to reflect what it actually is--a gallery of all three. The Ama came from my grandchildren. It is what they call me.* ”

Van Fleet had her eye on Bryant St. for some time hoping to set up a shop there. The convenience and the coming boom in the area were key attractions. A failed attempt to buy a house on Bryant St. preceded her purchase of the garage. Five new garage doors, a furnace, an exterior paint job, and cutting doorways between bays occurred in preparation for opening the shop. The bold exterior colors were chosen to attract pedestrian traffic from Bryant St.

Business has exceeded Van Fleet's expectations, and she is relying on word of mouth and Facebook to bring visitors to the shop.

Donations of old furniture are accepted at the shop or by contacting Van Fleet directly. Many times she arrives at the shop to find a table or chair left by someone hoping she can create something special. If she cannot fix or transform a piece, she will donate it to Goodwill.

Van Fleet is a true “picker” and combs neighborhoods on the eve of garbage day to see what treasures are left at the curbside. Most pieces of furniture “talk” to her and inspire her in what design and direction she will go.

Gallery Ama adds interest and color to the growing Bryant St. corridor and can be found just steps behind the north side of the street on Millbrae Way, now a destination alley.

Gallery Ama

Saturday & Sunday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Times vary on weekday evenings

412-841-5725

1221 Millbrae Way

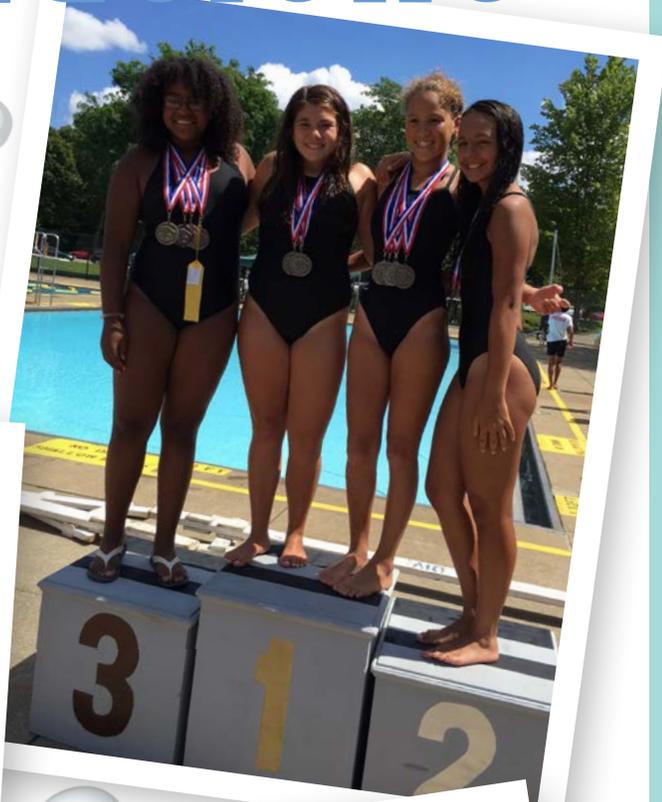
www.facebook.com/galleryama/?fref=ts



Congratulations

...to the Highland Park Swim team who took 3rd place in the City Champs Swim meet this year. The girls team took 1st place overall! Thank you to coaches Camille Jaap and Dorian Anderson for your guidance and support.

Every summer the team practices from June-August. Check the City Parks website for details next spring.





Free Event Provides Access to a Collection of Iconic Buildings and Spaces, October 1 & 2

Doors Open Pittsburgh, the first-ever event of its kind in downtown Pittsburgh, provides behind-the-scenes access, or some insightful experiences, across a collection of iconic buildings and perhaps some unknown spaces – showcasing the City’s diverse architectural styles and rich heritage.

This free event, which will be held on Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2, will open the doors of some of Pittsburgh’s most impressive buildings that many Pittsburghers normally would not have the opportunity to explore and experience. This is the chance for Pittsburghers to gain access to some of our city’s great landmarks, from office buildings, to private clubs, houses of worship, government offices, theaters, hotels, and residential buildings that contribute to our city’s rich architectural landscape.

“During the Doors Open Pittsburgh weekend, downtown Pittsburgh will open its doors to you, literally. This is your chance to see the insides of a diverse collection of buildings and some of the really cool spaces you may or may not have heard about, driven or walked past, but have never been inside to explore and experience. This is an off-the-beaten-path sort of tour experience. We welcome curiosity.” said Bonnie Baxter, founder of Doors Open Pittsburgh.

Doors Open Pittsburgh will include at least 40 buildings and attendees will be provided self-guided or semi-guided access, depending on the building and the space. Attendees choose which buildings, or spaces, they want to visit throughout the weekend.

No tickets, and no reservations are necessary. Visit www.doorsopenpgh.org to learn more about the event, the buildings featured and to register to volunteer or to donate to a successful event.

SUNNYSIDE & FULTON SCHOOL TOURS PLANNED

By Dave Atkinson

Sunnyside Tour - Thursday, October 6th at 9 a.m.
Fulton Tour - Friday, October 7th at 9:00 a.m.

The Highland Park Community Council has been sponsoring a tour of Fulton PreK-5 for several years to introduce families to all the positive things happening there. However, the neighborhood school for students living west of Negley in Highland Park is Sunnyside PreK-8 in Stanton Heights. To better support both schools, the HPCC has joined forces with Lawrenceville United and the Stanton Heights Neighborhood Association to sponsor a tour of Sunnyside PreK-8 for the first time this year.

Located in the heart of Highland Park, Fulton K-5 is an award winning neighborhood school featuring a French magnet program. Fulton educators aim to stretch their students' minds through higher level and critical thinking skills. Identified K-5 gifted and talented students receive enrichment during morning group time with the gifted and talented teacher. This period is used to develop and extend skills, and these students are encouraged to participate in the pre-algebra club. French is taught in grades K-5 at Pittsburgh Fulton. All children in K-1 get an exposure to the French language-through movement, songs, poetry, basic vocabulary and simple greetings. Beginning in second grade, students who have officially enrolled in the French Magnet program receive direct classroom instruction. Basic French vocabulary is taught and expanded into sight words, sentences and simple paragraphs. Emphasis is on developing oral and auditory language skills (speaking and listening). Students graduating from the French magnet program are guaranteed acceptance into the Obama Academy 6-12.

Sunnyside PreK-8 is a neighborhood school for students living in Upper Lawrenceville, Stanton Heights, Morningside and for students living west of Negley in Highland Park and East Liberty. Based on extraordinary student achievement gains, Sunnyside has earned the distinguished award of being a STAR school. Sunnyside provides a safe, healthy and accepting environment where students are encouraged by the school and community to reach their highest levels of achievement. Sunnyside offers an array of opportunities for students including world drumming, keyboarding and instrumental music. They also have a partnership with the Pittsburgh Ballet which provides creative movement classes for younger students. The 5th grade students learn ballroom dancing and compete. The school offers intramurals for students in grades 4 and 5 and athletic teams for grades 6-8 including: soccer, cross-country, baseball, volleyball and basketball. Sunnyside students have the opportunity to participate in various clubs such as ceramic arts, archery, electronics, wellness, culture, and girl talk, during activity periods. An after school YMCA Program is available for students until 6pm Monday-Friday.

The Sunnyside Tour will take place on Thursday, October 6th at 9am. Sunnyside is located at 4801 Stanton Avenue; contact 412-665-2040 for more information. The Fulton tour will take place on Friday, October 7th at 9:00am. Fulton is located at 5799 Hampton Street; contact 412-665-4590 for more information. Prospective parents are encouraged to attend, but the general public is welcome as well. Pittsburgh Public School graduates may be eligible for up to \$40,000 in Pittsburgh Promise scholarship money for in-state tuition at public or private colleges or at trade schools. Visit discoverpps.org for more information.



The logo for PICT Pittsburgh's Classic Theatre is displayed in a large, stylized red font. The background of the entire top section is a collage of architectural blueprints, a yellow pencil, and a book cover with the words 'THEAT CLASSICS' visible.

Pittsburgh's Classic Theatre

*Classics
in the*

2016
2017
SEASON

RAW

PICT Classic Theatre Sets-up House at Union Project!

Union Project is partnering with PICT Classic Theatre for their 2016-17 season. Guided by their new 2016-20 Strategic Plan goals, they are expanding the kinds of quality art experiences they offer our community, including performing arts, through a variety of new residencies and partnerships like this one.

Altogether PICT will perform five different shows starting September 2016 through June 2017. The beautiful Great Hall, the original sanctuary of the building, will be transformed into an alley-style theatre. This will be a fresh, new way to see theatre!

To ensure that all PICT plays are accessible and affordable for all, the partnership with PICT offers a limited amount of free tickets to each play to community members. Tickets will be given based on need until they are gone. Please contact Lindsey-Rose, Union Project's Space Rental Coordinator, via email or by phone at 412-363-4550 x 221 to inquire about reserving your ticket today!

PICT's Upcoming Shows:

The Merchant of Venice
by William Shakespeare
Directed by Alan Stanford
November 3-19, 2016

The Lion in Winter by James Goldman
Directed by Alan Stanford
December 1-17, 2016

Oedipus Rex by Sophocles
Directed by Alan Stanford
March 23-April 8, 2017

Sive by John B. Keane
Directed by Alan Stanford
May 4-20, 2017

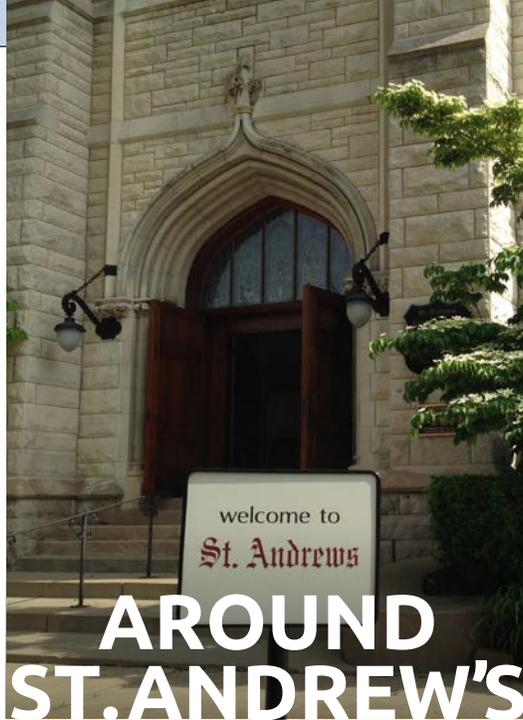
Visit PICT's website www.picttheatre.org to get your tickets for the 2016-2017 season.

Summer fades away in Western Pennsylvania,

the Steelers and Penguins open their new seasons, the stores are filled with all the excitement of "Back to School" sales and the early display of Halloween costumes and decor. In so many ways, "a new year," and with that a word of friendship to all in the neighborhood.

Sunday, September 11, was "Renaissance and Round Up" at St. Andrew's – a great fall gathering of our congregational family and friends as our regular service schedule resumed, with Church School and Adult Sunday morning programs. The first service of the morning, as we resume the Fall Schedule, is 9 a.m., Holy Communion, contemporary language, in the Chapel, followed at 9:45 a.m. by our Montessori-themed "Godly Play" Children's Program. At 10 a.m. our Sunday Adult Bible Study gathers in the Parlor, downstairs in the Old Rectory.

The Choral Service of Holy Communion (Choral Morning Prayer on the Second Sunday of each month), traditional language, begins at 11 a.m. Younger children attend the first part of the later service with their families and part way through the service will be invited to join Children's Chapel upstairs in the Parish House. Nursery Care for infants and toddlers is available from 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



By Bruce Robison, Rector

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.

In September, we also resume our midweek schedule, with Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Our regular service

schedule also includes two services of Choral Evensong. On the Third Sunday of each Month, 4:30 p.m. service of Choral Evensong and Sermon, sung by St. Andrew's Schola Cantorum, and on the first "First Thursday of the Month," 8 p.m., sung by our Parish Choir, followed by musical recital and a dessert reception.

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, or check us out on the web: www.standrewspgh.org.

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



Have a wild adventure at the Zoo for free!

On Sunday, October 9 the Zoo will be hosting a RAD Day - **FREE ADMISSION** through the Regional Asset District. The park is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The admission gates close at 4 p.m.



HPCC Officers

President

Jake Pawlak

Vice President

Scott Dietrich

Treasurer

Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Secretary

Christine Adams

HPCC Directors

Dave Atkinson

Jessica Bowser

Karin Manovich

James McAdams

Amber Quick

Janine Seale

Todd Shirley

Monica Watt

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

Yard Sale – Paul Miller (412) 365-0675

Welcoming – Todd Shirley

Zoning – Jake Pawlak





Suganya Rajendran
 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
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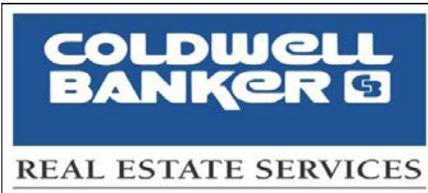
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LISA SOLOMON & JESSICA ALLEN

412-363-4000 ext 205

lisa.solomon@pittsburghmoves.com

412-363-4000 ext 206

jessica.allen@pittsburghmoves.com

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

