

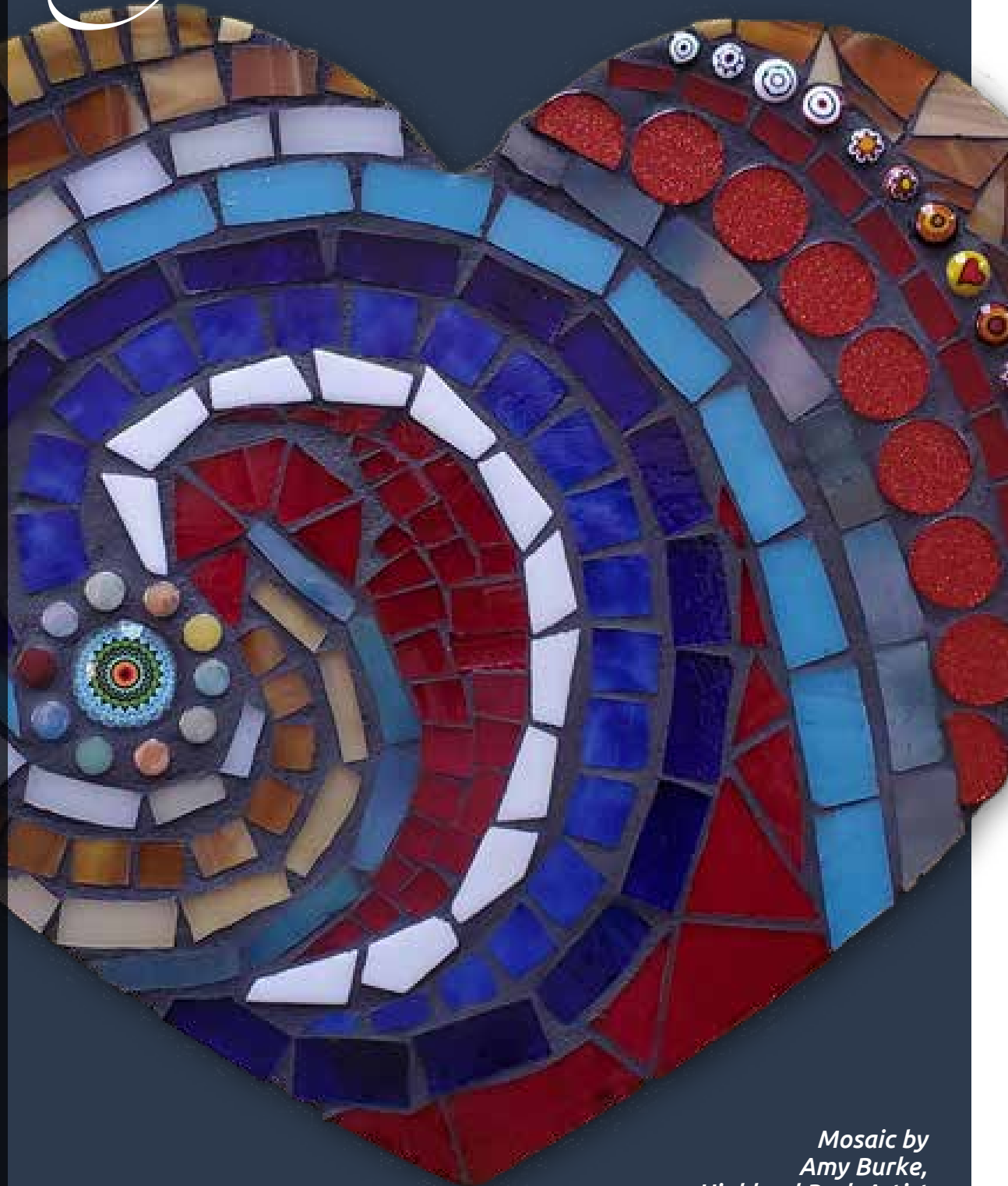
February 2021

Highland Park

Community Council Newsletter

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Mosaic by
Amy Burke,
Highland Park Artist

A Letter from the President

Hello Neighbors!

With 2021 shaping up to be a long, cold winter (thanks a lot, Punxsutawney Phil!), the HPCC is declaring February Meet-a-Neighbor Month! What better way to deal with the winter - and COVID-19 blues than to meet a new neighbor and perhaps make a new friend. How, you might ask?

- **The HPCC will help you meet someone new!** Just email your name to HPCCPgh@gmail.com. Each Friday in February starting Feb 12, we will pair people who have emailed that week and send you each other's names and email addresses. You can then connect with each other and have a 30-minute virtual coffee or phone call that weekend.
- **Meet our Magistrate, Mik Pappas.** Judge Pappas' office will be moving to Bryant Street later this year. Not only is he interested in developing a relationship with the community, he wants your input in the murals that will decorate the space. You can read about his office in this issue of the newsletter and meet him at our Zoom Community Meeting on February 18. Meeting details and the Zoom link will be posted to the ListServ and HPCC Facebook page and website the week of the meeting.
- **Visit our neighborhood businesses.** Each of our businesses is owned and operated by someone local. Don a mask and go get a coffee, grab take-out, pick-up

groceries, shop for unique fashions, sign-up for a personal trainer, get a haircut, or peruse upcycled furniture - and chat up our friendly, interesting neighborhood entrepreneurs.

- **Reach out to a local elected official.** While most aren't actual neighbors, they should be considered part of our community, too. Reach out today and let them know what's on your mind:

School Board Representative Devon Taliaferro: dtaliaferro1@pghschools.org

City Councilwoman Deb Gross:
412-255-2140 and
district7@pittsburghpa.gov

Mayor Bill Peduto: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/mayor/mayor-feedback>

State Representative Ed Gainey:
(412) 665-5502 and
<https://www.pahouse.com/Gainey/Contact>

State Senate Senator Lindsey Williams:
412-364-0469 and
SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com

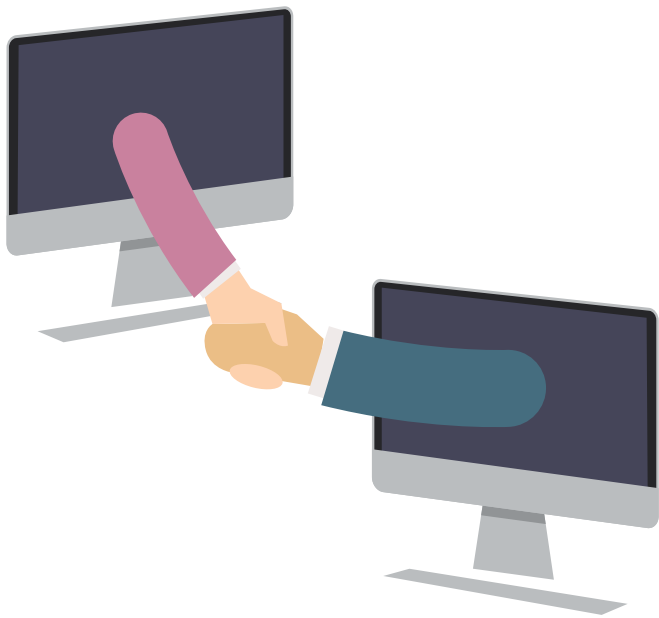
If you're feeling disconnected - which is understandable in these strange times - I hope that these suggestions will inspire you to reach out to someone. In the words of Millie Florence Lydia Green Of Mulberry Glen:

“ A shared cup of laughter, dear Reader, is the sunbeam that causes the flower of friendship to open its petals and peep out. ”

Flowers may still be months away, but a new connection - even a new friendship - could be right around the corner if you just reach out.

Keep warm and keep in touch.

Stephanie Walsh
HPCC President



MEET-A-NEIGHBOR MONTH IN HIGHLAND PARK

Feeling bored?

Cooped up?

In need of some social interaction?

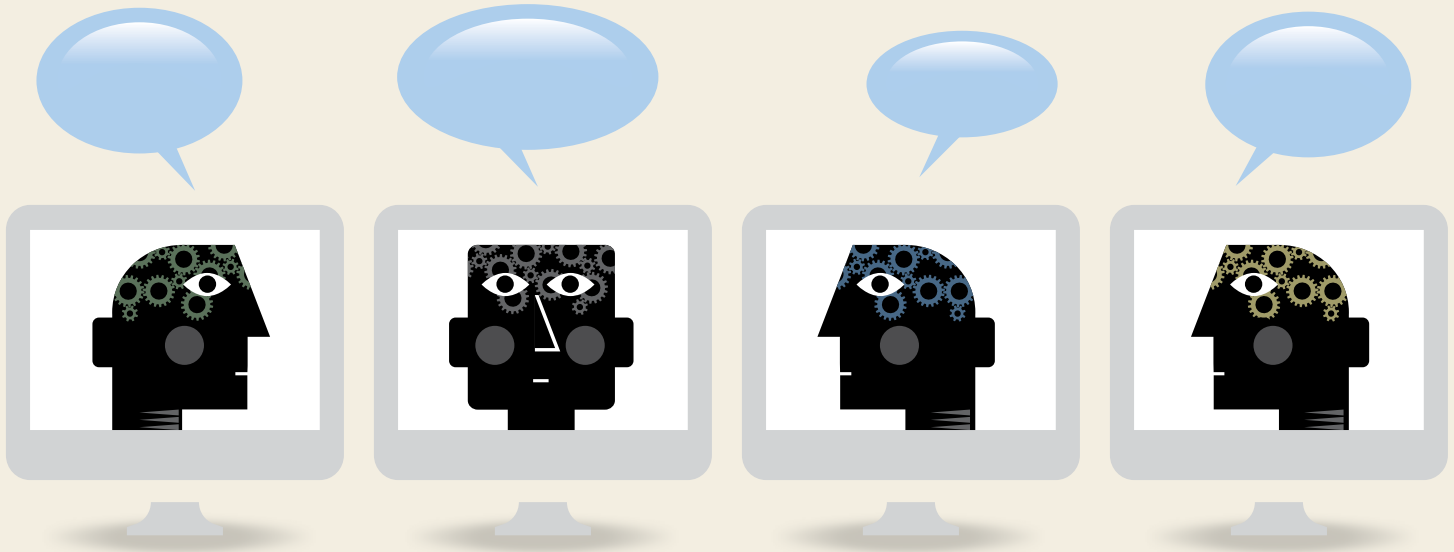
How would you like to meet someone new in the neighborhood?

The HPCC is here to help! Just email your name to the HPCC. Each Friday in February starting February 12, we will pair people who have emailed that week and send you each other's names email addresses. You then connect with each other and have a 30-minute virtual coffee or phone call that weekend. Meet a neighbor, make a friend!

PWSA HARDSHIP GRANTS - HOW TO DONATE OR APPLY

PWSA's Hardship Grant Program directly benefits local families who are struggling to pay for basic water and wastewater services. Since 2018, the program has helped more than 370 Pittsburgh households maintain essential water services. It was established to provide income-eligible customers with annual cash assistance to put towards their monthly water bill. Through the program, more than \$91,000 has been distributed with an average household award of \$285. To donate to the program or learn more about it and other PWSA customer assistance programs - including which you may be eligible for - visit pgh2o.com/CAP or call 412-255-2423 (Option 5).





HPCC Meeting Minutes

January 28

HPCC Community Zoom Meeting

32 Participants in attendance

Called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Stephanie Walsh

Agenda

BRT Project - Stephanie Walsh

- Last week the Port Authority had public meeting to discuss the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project with a focus on the Highland Park branch
- A brief overview of the progress of the BRT Project was presented
- All information has been added to the HPCC website under Neighborhood Development: <https://hpccpgh.org/brt/>

Super Playground Committee - Sabrina Culyba

- The proposed design will be on the City website in early March
- A community input session is tentatively scheduled for March 11; check the Engage Pgh website
- The HPCC will post the information closer to the event day
- Information on the project is available at <https://hpccpgh.org/playground/>



Membership Committee Update - Sabrina Culyba

- The individual managing welcome bags for the committee stepped down after 5 years
- HPCC is looking for a replacement; please contact Stephanie if you would like to volunteer: HPCCPgh@gmail.com

There HPCC Board of Directors has a vacancy. Please contact Stephanie if you are interested and would like more information: HPCCPgh@gmail.com

Presentation by District 7 Councilwoman Deborah Gross

- Council's current priority is pandemic related. Where is the need? and Where are people suffering?
- \$10 million dollars in federal aid provided to the city was given to the URA to provide rent and mortgage assistance to keep people in their homes
- The City budget crisis: City revenues are down \$60 million
- The Mayor is committed to avoiding decreases in the City payroll or cutting employees; the payroll has been cut somewhat through attrition and lack of hiring thus staffing is currently lean
- If federal assistance is not received, the city will have to cut staff in June/July
- The capital budget is funded via existing debt service so it is not affected by the decrease in revenue; for Highland Park this means funding for work on the historic tunnel on Reservoir Drive and the Super Playground
- There are currently 2 working groups addressing Highland Park issues
 - Options for traffic calming on Reservoir Drive are being explored
 - There is an ongoing effort to address noise from the police firing range
 - If you are interested in participating in these working groups, please email the HPCC at HPCCPgh@gmail.com.
- Councilwoman Gross and Stephanie meet monthly; questions for the Councilwoman can be sent to district7@pittsburghpa.gov

Police Zone 5 Update - Officer Jeff Crawford

- There were 2 auto thefts; 1 car was recovered and the juvenile thief was arrested
- There were 5 auto break-ins
- 1 non-fatal drug overdose
- Please report abandoned vehicles directly to Zone 5 or by calling 3-1-1
- Make certain your vehicle(s) are locked at all times.
- The police are creating a working group to address safety issues brought about by large groups of ATVs, dirt bikes and motorcycles on public streets

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.





COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership on Aging leads the Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh initiative. The initiative, which recently celebrated its 5-year anniversary, is dedicated to making our region more inclusive and respectful of all ages. To learn more about the initiative, or review its action plan and most recent progress report, visit www.swppa.org/agefriendly.

From now until February 28, the initiative is surveying Allegheny County residents ages 45 and older. The survey questions cover topics important to all of us, including home and community, transportation, housing, health and wellness, social connection, and COVID-19. The information gathered will inform the focus of their work.

The survey is available online at [Age-Friendly Survey](#). They are also working with a team of AmeriCorps VISTAs to complete surveys via phone calls; if that's your preferred option for participating, please call the initiative's Project Manager Randi Vega at 412-439-2025.

People who complete the survey can enter a drawing to win some great, locally sourced prizes, including an iPad! They want to hear from as many Allegheny County residents as possible, so please feel free to forward this link to others in the community.

SWPPA | Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership for Aging

Magisterial District Court Moves to Bryant Street



*By Mikhail
"Mik" Pappas,
District Judge*

Our Magisterial District Courts are critical community assets. Their easily accessible, familiar settings make justice resources available for our neighbors and neighborhood businesses.

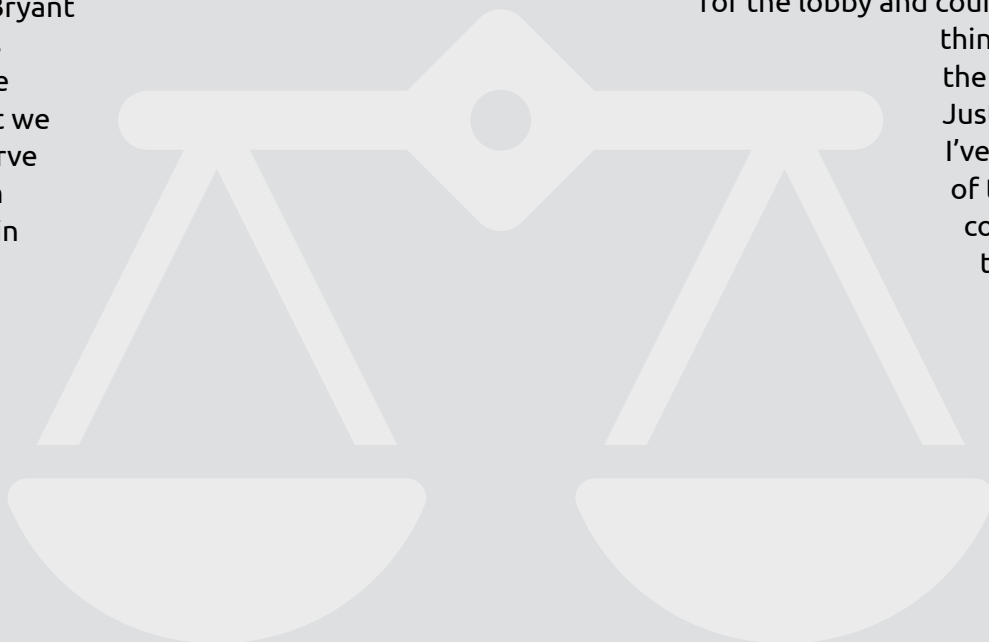
My vision for our District Court is one that is a safe space where people can feel confident they will find patience, understanding and fair, individualized restorative options for relief.

In the coming months, my District Court will relocate to the first floor of 5815 Bryant Street - the new building the HPCDC built a few years ago. Moving to Bryant Street preserves the calm daytime atmosphere that we and those we serve enjoyed so much during our time in the Morningside space.

It also has provided our office with an opportunity to increase the size and enhance the design elements to further promote safety, well-being and healing, while gaining more access to bus lines and bikeways.

For example, our new facility has been designed to feel more open and connected to the community, with the lobby and courtroom having an abundance of natural light and visibility from the street.

In addition, we are working with artist Kyle Holbrook and will be seeking community input regarding the design of one or more murals for the lobby and courtroom. We are thinking about the theme: "Visions of Justice in 2021." I've included images of two existing court murals with this article as inspiration.



Our office is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and we close from Noon to 1 p.m. for lunch. We stagger our daily hearing times to minimize waiting and to maximize parking availability. We are more than happy to modify our regular business hours and hearing times should any challenges arise.

At our District Court we hold hearings in summary and civil matters that arise in our 8-neighborhood magisterial district. Most of the summary matters involve school attendance and building code enforcement. Many of the civil matters involve contract disputes over residential rent and consumer debt agreements. We also host marriage ceremonies, stakeholder meetings and community events.

It's important to know that in Pittsburgh, magisterial district judges preside over traffic

and serious criminal matters at a court facility Downtown. So, when police issue someone a traffic citation, or charge them with a misdemeanor or felony anywhere in Pittsburgh, the hearings are held Downtown, NOT at our district court on Bryant Street.



I think it's wonderful that Highland Park will be our Magisterial District's host neighborhood, because it's one of the few neighborhoods in Pittsburgh that is familiar to almost everyone.

I want to thank the HPCC and the HPCDC for their incredible support throughout this process. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the February 2021 meeting of the HPCC.



Christmas Tree Recycling Fundraiser a Success!

CONGRATULATIONS to Troops 52498 and 55286! Both Highland Park troops together collected and recycled roughly 170 trees from Highland Park, East Liberty, Morningside, Shadyside, Larimer and Point Breeze.



Happy New Year from everyone at St. Andrew's! May the light of the Lord shine upon you and your family this year.

No doubt that there are tough, dark times ahead. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need anything, even if it is as simple as needing someone to talk to. Our Buddies and Runners program that we started at the beginning of the pandemic continues.

Call our office and leave a message and we can try to match you up with someone to talk to.

As of the writing of this article we remain closed for all in person services however all of our services are live streamed on Facebook and archived on our YouTube channel. If you want to join us live please tune in on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. You can also join us virtually on Facebook Live every first Thursday of the month when we celebrate Evensong at 8:00 p.m. Please note that we have suspended our third Sunday Evensong. For the very latest information on anything happening at St. Andrew's please check our outgoing phone message or our website, www.standrewspgh.org.

We encourage you to explore our website. Here you can look through old service leaflets, read staff biographies, browse the organizations that we partner with and you can now even donate. There are links to many of the non-profits that we have long-term relationships with including Off the Floor Pittsburgh, EECM and The Homeless Children's Education Fund to name just a few.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the drive we held in conjunction with the HPCC for Hello, Neighbor. It was a big success with hundreds of items donated for local families in need. "On behalf of the Hello, Neighbor community, thank you to all who donated



AROUND ST. ANDREW'S

By Becky Marinov

to the St. Andrew's drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and goes beyond the donations but helps our new neighbors feel welcome and not so alone in this scary and really isolating time," Sloane Davidson, President and founder of Hello, Neighbor.

Our outreach team is finalizing the details of our Lenten activities. Please visit our website and look for messages on the ListServ with the very latest COVID-19 safe plans and activities we have for Lent.

We are here for you. Please let us know how we can help you. Happy New Year and God Bless.



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412-661-1245 • www.standrewspgh.org
The Rev. Chris Cole, Rector



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